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AUGUST 6 - 9, 2015 Edmontonfolkfest.org



ALL FOLKED UP



Listen to CRUZ on the way home to continue your Folk Fest experience!

Thursday - Sunday 10PM - Midnight



Proud Sponsor of the 95.7 CRUZ FM Emerging Artist Award



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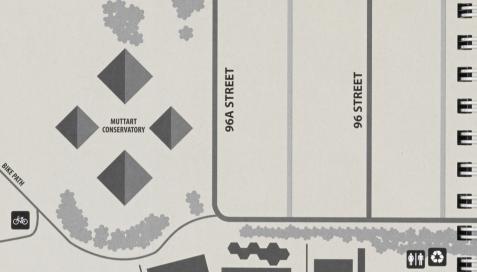
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EDMONTON

FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

SITE MAP

97 AVENUE













CONNORS ROAD

NO PUBLIC ACCESS







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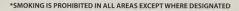




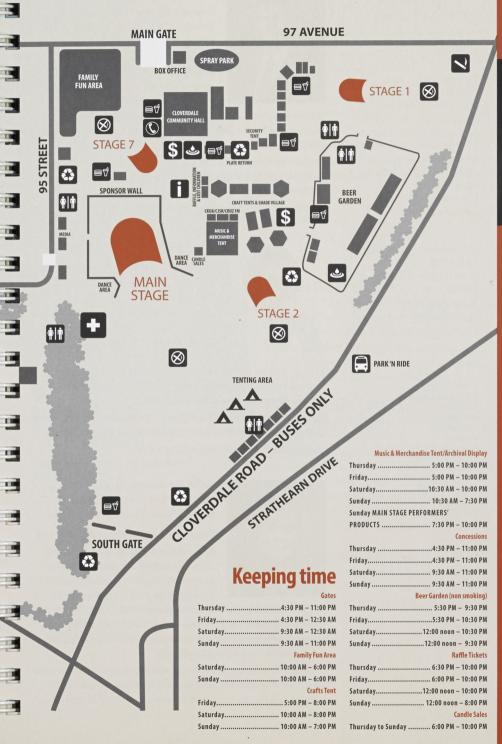














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Edmonton Folk Music Festival P.O. Box 4130 Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4T2 CANADA

Phone: 780.429.1899 Fax: 780.424.1132 E-mail: admin@efmf.ab.ca

EDITOR Mike Sadava

PRODUCTION

Maureen Beattie, Coordinator Sharon Bram Molly Bujold Philip Harries Lisa Lunn Claudette MacLean, Asst. Coordinator Mary St. Germain-Brown Jeff Weber

CONTRIBUTORS

Wayne Arthurson Scott Harris Romana Kabalin Marg Peters Emma Radford Eva Radford Jay Smith Dana Wylie

ADVERTISING Glenda Dennis

PRINTING Elite Lithographers

COVER Vision Creative Inc.



MESSAGE FROM MAYOR DON IVESON

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, I welcome everyone to the 36th Folk Music Festival.

Edmonton's Folk Music Festival embodies the diversity, confidence and creativeness that is abundant in our city. Sounds of Celtic, bluegrass, blues, gospel, roots and world beat music will

fill Edmonton's skies while Gallagher Park offers a remarkable backdrop for this exciting festival. Folk Fest brings Edmontonians together and enhances our already thriving eclectic arts scene.

I thank the Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society and the countless volunteers who work to make this festival a success. These efforts go a long way to building a more vibrant, welcoming city.

Best wishes for a memorable festival!



MESSAGE FROM PREMIER RACHEL NOTLEY

On Behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2015 Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

For many years, I have experienced the growth of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival as it has become one of the leading folk festivals in the world. It is a place where I have connected to so many Edmontonians,

Albertans, and other vistors in the folk music community. As one of Edmonton's most well-known ways to enjoy the summer, I hope that you too will experience the incredible power music has to connect and inspire us.

My thanks to the staff, volunteers, and sponsors of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society for all the hard work that went into putting together this year's festival.

I hope you dance the weekend away in Gallagher Park!



MESSAGE FROM MINISTER OF CANADIAN HERITAGE AND OFFICIAL LANGUAGES, SHELLY GLOVER

Welcome to the 2015 Edmonton Folk Music Festival. Our Government knows that culture and the arts play an important role in ensuring the vitality of our communities and the strength of our economy. This is why we are proud to support events, like

the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, that invite Canadians to experience the rich diversity of our country's artistic heritage. This gathering is an opportunity for the region's residents and visitors to discover musical traditions, enjoy unforgettable performances and expand their cultural horizons.

On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and the Government of Canada, I would like to thank all the organizers, performers and volunteers who helped bring this year's festival to life. I applaud the contribution you are making to Alberta's cultural landscape.



PHOTO BY - FRANK GASPARIK

Stay in tune

Send us your comments and suggestions

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 4130, Edmonton, AB T6E 4T2

Twitter: @edmfolkfest

Facebook: facebook.com/edmontonfolkmusicfestival

Office address:

10115 – 97A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta Phone: 780.429.1899 Fax: 780.424.1132

Check our web site at: www.edmontonfolkfest.org

Our home page offers a year-round subscription link to information about the festival.



Welcome

MESSAGE FROM THE PRODUCER

It has been a year of perfect preparation to get us to this weekend. Many favourite artists are returning, we discovered many brilliant new artists and some major artists that we have tried to bring in for years became available. As a result, I believe, we have one of our most exciting lineups in years.

So we are all set for another four days of fabulous music.

Please join me in welcoming the artists of the 2015 Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

Terry Wickham

Producer

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival Society, welcome to the 36th annual Edmonton Folk Music Festival!

We are so thankful for all of you amazing patrons, our incredible volunteers, fantastic staff, our host communities of Cloverdale and Strathearn, our committed sponsors and world-class performers and guests. Thank you! Our festival is a testament to the power of people coming together with a pure intention of putting on North America's best folk festival (although I may be biased in my opinion).

Our festival is mature in its life cycle: we have a growing endowment fund, our capital plan is coming to fruition and our governance is efficient and effective. Simply put, we've learned how to be the best by constantly looking for room for improvements and learning from others. If you have suggestions for improvements, please let us know—we are listening.

I am extremely excited for this year's line up, there is literally something for everyone, old and emerging favorites are sure to please this festival.

I hope you have a fantastic weekend and again, thank you for sharing it with us.

Cam McCormick

Chair, Board of Directors

SOIS SOIS SERVICE AUDIC FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 5 & 6 - 2015

NEW VENUE - BORDEN PARK

SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER 5

SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 6

HOZIER HOZIER BRANDON FLOWERS TV ON THE RADIO KONGOS ST. LUCIA ROBERT DELONG

ALEXISONFIRE TENACIOUS D

MOTHER MOTHER
THE FLAMING LIPS
TOKYO POLICE CLUB

THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE

EAGLES OF DEATH METAL
THE ELWINS

GAY NINETIES
YOUNG EMPIRES

K-OS

TICKETS A

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Cornelius Gallagher definitely would have approved of Folkfest in the park that was named after him.

The son of an Irish immigrant, he was born in St. John, New Brunswick and moved west with his family and the family meat-packing business, arriving in Edmonton in 1891 after spending time in Winnipeg and Regina. He became a leading business owner in the early days of Edmonton, providing much of the city's meat as well as being a major investor in the brick business. He owned a lot of the land in what was then called Gallagher's Flats, which eventually became known as Cloverdale.

He was also a civic leader, serving several terms on town council as well as a brief stint as mayor, being appointed when the incumbent resigned over a dispute involving town funds.

It's easy to imagine Gallagher, with his big handlebar moustache, striding across main stage to enthusiastically introduce Irish performers like Lynched, or Sinéad O'Connor. He'd also approve of the fine meat dishes offered in the concessions area.

He would also be amazed at how much respect that a crowd—twice the population of Edmonton at the turn of the 20th century—has for the park and the neighbourhoods around it. We're here at the courtesy of Strathearn and Bonnie Doon as well as Cloverdale. So let's continue cleaning up after ourselves and going quietly into the night after another inspiring night of music. Cornelius Gallagher would be impressed at how civilized the city he helped build turned out to be, and would be proud that his name is associated with the festival.

The Survival Guide

Thousands of us come back to Folk fest year after year, not only for the music, but because we have such a good time. Whether we're catching up with old friends in the Beer Tent, watching our kids' faces transformed with face paint or chasing the late night hunger pangs with an elephant ear, there are plenty of ways to have a great time at the festival, while taking in some of the best folk music on the planet.

With 25,000 people on the site of Gallagher Park at once, we have a few ground rules and services to help everybody have a great experience over the four days.

WRISTBANDS

When you enter the gate you get a four-day wristband or a daily wristband, depending on what kind of ticket you have. All patrons must wear the wristband at all times, except for children 11 and under, and seniors age 80+.

SEATS

To avoid blocking the view of other patrons, use only seats with a maximum total seat height of 26 inches (66 cm), with a maximum seat leg height of no more than 8 inches (20 cm).



SMOKING

In consideration of non-smokers, and to comply with provincial laws and city bylaws, the non-smoking areas are extensive. Smoking is not permitted in the seating area of any stage, by tents at the top of the hill, the Family area, Beer Garden, the hearing-impaired area, access area on the west side of Main Stage, First Aid Tent, Dance Area and in any lineup. If you smoke, please go to the top of the hill above Area 4, to the NE corner of Stage 1, and by the west end porta potties (night only). Please pinch and pocket your butts.

KEEP IT CLEAN

Dispose of garbage and recyclables in the appropriate cans, including cigarette butts.

LINEUPS

You can start lining up at 2:00 PM on Thursday and Friday and at 7:00 AM on Saturday and Sunday. No overnight queues, please. Order of entry is determined by our optional lottery system. The gates will open at 4:30 PM on Thursday and Friday and at 9:30 AM on Saturday and Sunday. "Walk, don't run," to quote the Ventures.

TARPS

The maximum size is 8 by 10 feet (2.5 by 3.0 metres). Please make room, don't be a space hog! Don't forget to take your tarp and all other belongings home with you every night. Items left will be taken to the Lost and Found where they can be claimed.

TENTS AND LEAN-TOS

Pitch a tent only at the top of the hill. It should be small and maximum 1.5 metres in height. Tents have to be dismantled and taken home every night. Low lying lean-tos can be used lower on the hill only in the case of rain.

SUPPLIES TO REMEMBER

You could be at the festival for more than 12 hours, so you'll need: a hat, sunscreen, water bottle, bandages, insect repellant, hand wipes, your medications, comfortable footwear, warm clothes for the evening and possibly rain gear. Our Music and Merch Tent may have some of these items.

KIDS

Kids love the festival, but don't leave them unattended. It's easy for youngsters to get lost in the crowd. Please encourage them to use their "inside voices" during performances — your neighbours are trying to hear the music.

LOST KIDS, LOST AND FOUND

Lost kids and lost items can be dropped off or claimed at the Information Tent. Look for the big balloons! After the weekend, check with the festival office for lost items. After September 15, items that are unclaimed will be donated to charity.

INFORMATION TENT

Look for the big balloons! Our volunteers have information to help you enjoy your day. They also have a comment book to share your blog ideas the old-fashioned way.

CANDLES

Folk fest wouldn't be the same without candles on the hill, but be cautious. Tarps are extremely flammable. Inexpensive candles and cups may be purchased from roving sellers. Fire regulations make the use of covers for candles mandatory.

REMEMBER YOUR NEIGHBOURS

That means staying seated and keeping the noise down so everyone can enjoy the performances. Dance to your heart's content, but at the sides of Main Stage or Stages 1-3 and 5-7 — not at your seat. Please use friendly discussion to sort out boundary disputes or other problems. If you can't, Liaison Security Crew members wearing yellow vests will help. There is also help at the security tent east of Cloverdale Hall by the public plate return station, or at the top of Main Stage hill.

Pets, drugs, alcohol, video, high backed chairs, audio recording equipment, glass containers, laser pointers and sliding are not allowed.

SOME SERVICES TO HELP YOUR FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

FIRST AID

The First Aid tent is staffed with health care professionals. The First Aid tent does not supply items such as sunscreen and insect repellent.

WATER STATIONS

Fill up your water bottle at the water stations by the Cloverdale Community Hall and Stage 5, and Beer Garden.

WATER PARK

There is a water spray park beside Cloverdale Hall. What a great way for your kids to cool down!

MESSAGE BOARD

Want to hook up with friends and don't have a cell phone? Leave a note at the message board, located in the information tent.

YOGA SESSIONS

These will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM in the dance area to the left of Main Stage.

Emergency Evacuation

Being a prairie city, Edmonton is occasionally subject to severe weather, and Folkfest is prepared for it. We rely on our own sources to monitor weather and determine if severe storm warnings are specific to our site.

This advance warning system allows us to determine if and when to evacuate in advance of a storm. Should a storm be coming our way and we need to evacuate, announcements will be made by the following means:

- 1. Announcements at active stages
- 2. Notice on the Festival App
- 3. Display on screens at Main Stage
- 4. Personnel announcements from the thoroughfare

Please remain calm (no need to run), gather your belongings from the hill, and use an exit convenient to access your means of transport.



NO SLIDING

Sliding on the hill can be dangerous for both sliders and anyone who may be in their path. The festival has been informed that we can no longer permit this. It is a liability issue. We would all feel terrible if someone got hurt. We ask parents to keep an eye on their kids to make sure they are not sliding. Sliders will be warned that it is not permitted, and they could be asked to leave the grounds if they persist. Thank you for your co-operation.

Accommodating Special Needs

At the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, we are committed to accommodating people with specific needs so they too can enjoy the festival with the least amount of hassle.

If you have special needs due to a disability, the Access crew can answer questions, provide you with assistance and give you information about:

- a designated listening area for people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues
- · program schedules in Braille
- · assistive-listening systems for the hard of hearing

For patrons who require the assistance of an aide, the aide will be admitted free of charge.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

- Limited Parking is available near the main gate (94 Street, 97 Avenue) for vehicles marked with official handicapped parking signs.
- Access crew volunteers are stationed at the main gate and access sites.
- People who use wheelchairs may listen to the main stage artists in a designated listening area just west of the Main Stage.
- Power lines on site are ramped or rerouted to reduce or eliminate obstacles and allow the free movement of wheelchairs.
- In the event of inclement weather, volunteers will assist people with disabilities off the site or to sheltered areas as quickly and safely as possible.

HEARING

For festival folkies who are hard of hearing, there are:

- · magnetic induction loops at all performance areas
- loop system receivers for those with no hearing aid or no T-switch. Receivers can be picked up and returned at the Information Tent.

The magnetic induction loop system consists of an antenna placed beneath the sod in a 25-square-foot area in front of the stage.

- If you use a hearing aid equipped with a T-switch (telecoil), simply switch your aid to the "T" position.
- Then sit within 12 feet of the blue hearing-access signs located in the centre of each looped area.
- Your hearing aid will act as a receiver; no other equipment is required.

If you have any questions about hearing access, contact an Access crew volunteer through the Information Tent.

FM receivers and accessories will be available at the Information Booth. A credit card or driver's licence is required as a deposit.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED

If you have a visual disability, ask at the Information Booth for the workshop schedule in Braille or large print.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER FOLK TOGETHER.

Encor Chirp – the new way to buy green energy – is proud to support the Edmonton Folk Fest. Look for the Chirp tent to learn how you can do your planet proud and while you're here, plug your cell phone into our charging station for a boost on us.

encorchirp.com

Encor by EPCOR

Getting Here

NO PARKING

There is no public parking close to the festival site. Vehicles parked in Cloverdale will be tagged and towed. Here are some alternatives:

PARK 'N' RIDE

SUPPORTED BY EDMONTON TRANSIT The transit location is at Bus Stop #2749 on 87 Ave. (U of A Butterdome).

Parking event rate is \$5.00* available from all Campus Lots.

*In effect 1 hour before bus service begins.

ETS fares in effect. ETS passes are valid. (Bus Drivers do NOT carry chanae.)

Hours for Park 'n' Ride

Thursday 3:30 PM - 11:30 PM Friday 3:30 PM - 1:00 AM Saturday 8:30 AM - 1:00 AM Sunday 8:30 AM - 11:30 PM

Park 'n' ride buses arrive and leave from the northeast corner of Gallagher Park 97 Ave. & 92 St. every 30 minutes.

Regular transit service is also available along many routes. You can get bus schedules at the Information Booth, or call

- 780-496-1600 for recorded information 24 hours a day
- 780-496-1611 to speak to a real person
- www.takeets.com and hit "plan your trip" from Butterdome to Edmonton Folk Festival

PARK YOUR PEDALS

Cycle down and check your bike at the free, supervised lock-up. It is located behind Stage 6, south of the Muttart Conservatory at the intersection of the bike paths. The lockup is unsupervised overnight.

Hours

Thursday 1:30 PM - 11:30 PM Friday 1:30 PM - 1:00 AM Saturday 9:00 AM - 1:00 AM Sunday 9:00 AM - 11:30 PM



Go Green

The Edmonton Folk Music Festival is committed to minimizing the festival's impact on the environment.

IT'S UP TO YOU! PLEASE PLACE ITEMS IN THE PROPER BIN.

LOOK FOR A WASTE DIVERSION STATION!

Check the map (pages 2 & 3) for the locations.

Reusable cups: Bring your own reusable cup.

Compostable beer cups in the Beer Garden! Thanks to Big Rock!

Compostable cutlery and containers are used at concessions. After use, they can be placed in Cleanit-Greenit compost bins. Look for our Green Team for more information.

REUSABLE PLATES

- Pay a \$2 deposit when you purchase food served on a plate.
- Return your plate to the plate return depot and get your \$2 deposit back.
- Please return plates as soon as possible after eating. We have a limited number and must keep them circulating.

The reusable plate program is made possible with the assistance of the Edmonton Community Foundation. The plates are shared with other festivals and organizations.

HELP SCHOOLS!!! HELP THE ENVIRONMENT!!! TREAT YOURSELF!!!

Now is the time to get great savings on organic red and white wine by the case! Not only do you save money but you also help raise funds for school environmental projects in Mexico. To see what your support can do go to:

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TIT.

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cleanitgreenit.net/renacimientoverde
This is your opportunity to help
schools, children in need, and the
environment. Don't hesitate — call
today 780.488.7926



ARE YOU LOOKING TO RAISE FUNDS?

Are you a non-profit organization, school, team, etc. looking to raise funds? Then join our annual Cleanit Greenit compost fundraiser event! Call Vanessa at 780.488.7926 for details on how you can get involved.

CG's Organic Soil™ fundraiser sales helped raise more than \$39,700 for Edmonton community groups in 2015!! Interesting fact — your compostables from last year's Festival went into CG's Organic Soil™ for the fundraiser sales.

WE ALSO DO ESA'S!

Cleanit Greenit's sister company, Advanced Enviro Engineering also does environmental site assessments (Phase I, II, and III), waste reduction programs, soil and water testing, and more! Phase I ESA's are needed when you buy, sell, or re-finance apartment buildings, commercial or industrial properties.

WE'RE CLEANING IT - WE'RE GREENING IT!

Compostable plates, cups, beer cups and cutlery are back again. These go into the Cleanit Greenit green bins. Look for diversion centres; they come in three's - a big **organics** cart, a nice **recycling** bin and an itty bitty **waste** bin. Remember: plastics from home are garbage!

Check Out Our New Website! www.cleanitgreenit.net





Food! Glorious Food!



PHOTO BY - TOM TURNER

Calico Baking Company (West End)

Yummy baked goods both sweet an savoury join the Area 4 Marketplace for 2015. From pancetta and quail egg pie, sweet and savoury croissants, to cinnamon buns and lemon scones, you are sure to find something delish here at the Calico chuck wagon.

Cheesecake Café (mobile)

A mobile bicycle filled with yummy cheesecake on a stick. It's too bad they can't bike off your calories.

Chocolate Covered Bananas

Bananas + chocolate + numerous delicious toppings = a frozen treat with a healthy middle. Frozen fruit bars and real fruit smoothies too.

D'Amores Coffee

Espresso based coffee drinks and teas—hot and cold—and treats like Canolli and Nutella Pizza.

D'Amores Deli

Italian sandwiches with a side of cactus chips, or take it up a notch with cactus chip poutine or deep fried pickles.

Fantasia Italiano (Family Area)

Gelato, cappuccino, pasta and paninis. Bene!

Fat Franks (Beer Garden)

The Edmonton classic hot dogs and smokies to go with your cold beer.

Filistix (West End)

Signature slaw, green onion cakes, chickpea and corn curry, grilled chicken or pork BBQ.

Hoang Long

Vietnamese Bahn Mi, Lemongrass skewers, Spring rolls and papaya salad.

Hong Kong Bakery

Bubble teas and coconut buns for the sweet side! Shanghai noodles and BBQ pork spring rolls for the savoury. But really — it's the bubble tea and coconut buns that'll keep you coming back!

Langano Skies Ethiopian

Sambusa, spicy lentils, mango shakes and Ethiopian coffee.

Lemon Heaven (West End)

Quench your thirst with these delicious fresh squeezed lemonade.

Little O's

Would the festival be the festival with out some mini donuts or an elephant ear? Breakfast wraps and steel cut oatmeal in the mornings too.

Naanolicious

This is Indian streetfood at its best.
Butter chicken fries, Vindaloo wings,
all sorts of Naan bread and a chai bar.

New Asian Village

Classic Indian dishes to fill you up. Butter chicken, beef curry, samosas, pakoras and mango drinks.

Numchok Wilai

Thai treats including pad thai, green curry with chicken, veggie green curry, and veggie spring rolls—all available in combo plates.

Onigiri Co.

Wonderful onigiri—rice balls in seaweed wrappers—including the popular Yam 'n' Salmon, Wasabi Tuna, Kimchi and Sweet Chili Tofu plus wok-fried edamame to snack away.

Organic Box (West End)

The fruit truck is back in the Area 4 Marketplace with baskets of fruit and veggies, juice and water—snacks you can feel good about.

Original Canadian Kettle Corn (Beer Garden)

Popcorn salty AND sweet or just salty —either way it goes great with a cold drink on a hot day!

Padmanadi

Totally vegan versions of curried curry chicken, ginger beef, spring rolls, lemon prawns and gado gado (Indonesian salad with peanut sauce).

Perogy Place

No Edmonton festival would be complete without some perogies!
Good Ukrainian meals with perogies, kubasa, cabbage rolls, kosher pickles ... and don't forget your deep fried Oreo for dessert!

Punky Potato

Every kind of fries you can imagine — spiral, poutine, sweet potato, cheese or chili... get them with a burger, a hot dog or a cheesesteak sandwich!

Royal Treats

All sorts of ice cream novelties, soft serve, ice cream cones and frozen yogurt. Cool off with something from Royal treats—their booth is in the main line and two mobile carts can be found around the site.

Sailin' On

Edmonton's favourite vegan food truck gets a booth in the main line this year. Vegan BLT wrap, chickpea salad sandwich, fried avocado taco, breakfast taco, fries, curry fries, The Irish... cookies from Bloom.

Serben's Organic Farm (West End)

Bratwursts, smokies, rosemary/garlic sausage, hot dogs and kubi burgers. All organic. All delicious. In the Area 4 Marketplace.

Smokehouse BBQ

BBQ sandwiches to die for include beef brisket, pulled pork, and the Bacon Bomb. Also serving sweet tea, Cajun chicken & corn pie and steak & kidney pie. Fried Cajun cauliflower helps balance out the meatiness of it all.

Soner's Donair and Kebab

Beef or chicken donairs, donair poutine, veggie poutine, falafel, dolma spinach pie or chicken shish kebabs—add a side salad for the full meal deal.

Summit Hut (Top of Hill)

Coffee and espresso for the cool nights, lemonade and iced tea for the hot days and baked goodies... for anytime really.

Taste of Mongolia

This is your green onion cake headquarters! Also try the ginger beef, spring rolls, dumplings and chow mein.

The Popcorn Place (Top of Hill)

Movie theatre popcorn and other snacks to keep you satisfied. Nachos and cheese, apple slices, and candy floss are available among other treats!



Sponsors

FUNDERS

This project is funded in part by:

The City of Edmonton (Edmonton Arts Council)

The Government of Alberta (Alberta Foundation for the Arts) (Community Lottery Fund)

The Government of Canada (Canada Arts Presentation Fund) (HRDC) **Edmonton Community Foundation**

The SOCAN Foundation

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Have you ever wondered how you could get more involved with the Edmonton Folk Music Festival? Do you want to contribute to the Folk Festival's success? Would you like to have your corporate name in front of 100,000 well-educated, increasingly affluent patrons of music? We have sponsorship options available that give you the opportunity to be a part of it all!

For more information on sponsorship email: adsales@efmf.ab.ca or call our office at 780.429.1899.

THANKS

Avatar Brand Management Benjamin Moore Big Top Tent Rentals Ltd.

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Morinville Greenhouses Mother's Music

Muttart Conservatory
Northlands

Ortona Tenants' Association

Pals Geomatic Prairie Mills Bread Rebel Heart Trucking RICOH Canada Riverbend Gardens

Shaheen Grocery and Afgan Bakery Shameless Design

South Edmonton Produce Co.

Sterling Crane

SunGold Specialty Meats Ltd.

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University of Alberta Parking Services University of Alberta Students' Union

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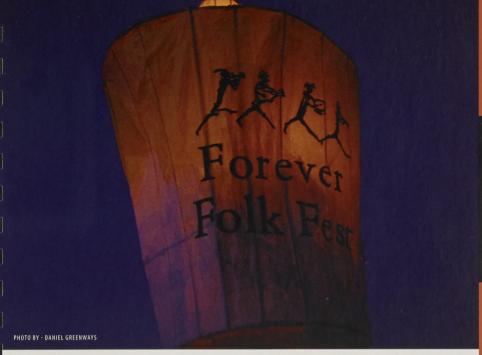
Wholesale Bakery Specialists



Proud to support the Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

We are working together to make a difference in our communities.





Forever Folkfest: *** Keeping the Lights on the Hill

You may have heard mention of the Forever Folkfest Endowment Fund.

Administered through the Edmonton Community Foundation for investment, the endowment fund is a way in which Folkfest management and board of directors work to ensure the financial stability of the festival's future.

In the 10 years since it was established, the fund has grown to just over \$2 million, and the festival receives an annual income of 3.5 per cent, and that is forever.

This is a great thing in two ways: gifts to the fund are matched by federal programs, ensuring the fund keeps growing, and the annual dividend for Folkfest, which now is around \$80,000, is money that we invest in our infrastructure, projects, stability, as well as something very dear to all of us, the "Go Wildly Forward" scholarship in the name of our late, illustrious Don Snider.

The endowment fund is a registered charity, which means your gift is eligible for a 50 per cent tax credit.

Contributions to the endowment fund can be made in three ways:

- A Living Legacy Donations are accepted at the Information Tent during the festival, or by mail the rest of the year. A tax receipt will be issued once your donation is processed.
- End of Life Gift You can donate to the festival through your will or life insurance policy to mitigate taxes and acknowledge the effect the festival has had on your life.
- Candle Purchase Every dollar from candle sales goes to the fund.

If you are interested in adding the Edmonton Folk Music Festival to your will or making a donation of your own, or perhaps in honour of a friend/loved one, stop by the info booth, have a look at our website or give the office a call at 780-429-1899 for more information.

2015 Folkfest Raffle

EARLYBIRD DRAW

CALGARY FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL PACKAGE

Summer fun in Calgary! The winner will receive two 4-day passes to the 2016 Calgary Folk Music Festival. Donated by **Calgary Folk Music Festival**. The weekend will be complete with a luxurious 3-night stay at the nearby International Hotel Suites Calgary, parking included. **Donated by the International Hotel Suites Calgary**. Package Valued at \$1080.00

SILVER TARP PACKAGE

The winner and a guest will enjoy the 2016 Edmonton Folk Music Festival with **two full VIP backstage passes and second placement of their tarp on the Main Stage hill!** You'll also enjoy **15 pre-selected 2015 Edmonton Folk Music Festival performer CDs.** Package Valued at \$1400.00

MAIN DRAW

SPECIAL DRAW

Golden Tarp Prize Package: The winner and a guest will enjoy two full VIP backstage passes for the 2016 Edmonton Folk Music Festival with the best seats at the festival – the Golden Tarp winner receives first placement of their tarp at the Main Stage! This red carpet treatment includes four nights Fairmont view accommodation with valet parking at the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald, and a Gourmet Picnic Basket for Two during the 2016 Festival weekend (Thursday through Sunday night). Donated by the Fairmont Hotel Macdonald. Package Valued at \$2826.40

1ST PRIZE

Travel/Flight Prize: Pack your bags! The winner will receive two round-trip tickets to any European destination that KLM flies to via Amsterdam. Donated by Edmonton International Airport. Valued at \$3500.00

2ND PRIZE

Sky Suite Package: The winner and 11 friends will enjoy one **Edmonton Oilers 2015/2016 regular season home game in a luxurious Sky Suite box,** including **\$300 worth of food and beverage. Donated by Ticketmaster Canada LP** (select dates only; some restrictions apply). **Valued at \$4000.00**

3RD PRIZE

Larrivee Guitar: This **Orchestra Model 03 series** guitar is hand-made in Vancouver using solid wood construction and comes with a matte vintage mahogany finish. It features a single-piece South American mahogany neck with nickel alloy frets, an ebony fretboard/bridge, a dovetail neck joint and an adjustable truss rod. **Donated by Avenue Guitars.**Valued at \$1799.00

4TH PRIZE

Party Prize Package: The party begins with your very own Mini beer fridge stocked with 12 dozen fresh brews, donated by Big Rock Brewery. Fat Franks donates and provides the food and beverage with a catered personal event/party for 50 at location of choice within greater Edmonton, inclusive of selected product line and beverages. Your party will be complete with 10 pre-selected 2015 Edmonton Folk Music Festival performer CDs. Valued at \$1500.00



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\$3 Each or 2 For \$5









15,300 tickets printed. 300 X 1 for \$3.00, 15,000 X 2 for \$5.00 Complete rules are available at the Raffle Booth.
License # 410894



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Fri Aug 07

Thu Aug 06 6:54 PM Main Stage*

6:00 PM Stage 5

Performers at a Glance

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Sun Aug 09	11:00 AM Stage 2
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RICHARD TH	OMPSON
Sat Aug 08	3:00 PM Stage 3
	10:13 PM Main Stage*

ROSS AINSLIE AND JARLATH HENDERSON

1:05 PM	Stage 1*
3:00 PM	Stage 5
12:35 PM	Stage 5
3:00 PM	Stage 2
	3:00 PM 12:35 PM

SCHOOL OF SONG

Sat Aug 08	11:00 AM	Stage 2
	3:00 PM	Stage 2*

SIKAHN

Sat Aug 08	11:00 AM Stage 5
	4:30 PM Stage 2
Sun Aug 09	11:00 AM Stage 5
	1:05 PM Stage 2*

SINÉAD O'CONNOR

Fri Aug 07	9:05 PM Main Stage ⁴
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THE SLOCAN RAMBLERS

Sat Aug 08	11:00 AM Stage
	6:05 PM Stage 2
Sun Aug 09	12:35 PM Stage
	5:40 PM Stage

TINARIWEN

Fri Aug 07	7:30 PM Stage 3
Sat Aug 08	2:00 PM Main Stage*
	5:40 PM Stage 1

TONY MCMANUS AND **BEPPE GAMBETTA**

Fri Aug 07	7:30 PM	Stage 3
Sat Aug 08	12:30 PM	Stage 3
	5:05 PM	Stage 5*
Sun Aug 09	5:40 PM	Stage 3

THE WIND AND THE WAVE

1112 111112 /	THE THE THINK	
Sat Aug 08	11:00 AM	Stage 6
	3:00 PM	Stage 6
Sun Aug 09	1:05 PM	Stage 7*
	5:45 PM	Stage 6







Friday Sessions

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3
6:00	Concert Oysterband	Mentors Old Man Luedecke I Draw Slow Ashley MacIsaac	Concert Jerry Douglas presents the Earls of Leicester
7:00	Concert Le Vent du Nord	Geoff Muldaur 7:30	7:30 Slips and Slides
8:00	Concert Harry Manx	Song Catchers Chuck Brodsky Eliza Gilkyson Lynched Amelia Curran	Tony McManus and Beppe Gambetta Jerry Douglas presents the Earls of Leicester Makana Tinariwen
9:00		MAIN STAGE Sinéad O'Connor	



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PHOTO BY - DELBERT KOSTURA

STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7	
Culture Club The Duhks Bombino Hanggai	Concert Letts	Concert The Hearts	6:00
On a String The Once Còig Helene Blum and Harold Haugaard	7:20 Magical Moments	Concert Brian McNeill	7:00
Concert Ashley MacIsaac	Bear's Den Jenn Grant Frazey Ford John Smith	Concert Bill Bourne	8:00
	MAIN STAGE Sinéad O'Connor		9:00

Saturday Sessions

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3
11:00	Fiddler's Roost Brian McNeill Còig Calvin Vollrath	Airs and Graces Braden Gates Le Vent du Nord Post Script	Influences The Duhks Jerry Douglas Monica Heldal
12:00	Concert John Smith	Concert Chuck Brodsky	Ashley MacIsaac 12:30 Slow Hand
1:00	Concert Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson	Concert Eliza Gilkyson	Oscar Lopez Makana Harry Manx Tony McManus and Beppe Gambetta
2:00	MAIN STAGE Tinariwen		
3:00 4:00	Concert Bassekou Kouyate and Ngoni Ba	School of Song The Doll Sisters Ella Coyes Erin Kay and Ken Stead Mohsin Zaman Post Script	Define Folk Oysterband Richard Thompson Geoff Muldaur and Amos Garrett The Milk Carton Kids
5:00	4:25 Concert The Barr Brothers	4:30 And Justice For All Bill Bourne Emmanuel Jal	4:30 Concert Geoff Muldaur and Amos Garrett
6:00	5:40 Something Borrowed, Something Blues Harry Manx The Barr Brothers Mike Farris Tinariwen	Eliza Gilkyson Si Kahn 6:00 Concert The Slocan Ramblers	5:40 Something Old, Something New The Once Sarah Jarosz and Aoife O'Donovan Lynched Braden Gates
7:00		MAIN STAGE Matt Andersen	

	STAGE 7	STAGE 6	STAGE 5
11	Country Music The Slocan Ramblers Helene Blum and Harold Haugaard I Draw Slow	A Day In The Life Jenn Grant The Wind and the Wave Good For Grapes	Change Bill Bourne Lynched
12	Concert Old Man Luedecke	Concert Good for Grapes	Amelia Curran Si Kahn 12:40
1:	Concert The Once	The Way It Is, The Way It Was Danny Michel Frazey Ford Eddie Berman	Happy Blues Amos Garret and the Festival House Band Mike Farris Leo Bud Welch Hanggai
2:		MAIN STAGE Tinariwen	
3:	Concert Helene Blum and Harold Haugaard	New Frontiers Frazey Ford Lord Huron The Wind and the Wave	A Country Garden Chuck Brodsky Còig Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson
4:	Concert Amelia Curran	The Wind and the Wave Eddie Berman 4:30	Concert Danny Michel
5:	Concert Oscar Lopez	Concert Gregory Alan Isakov 5:45	Concert Tony McManus and Beppe Gambetta
6:	Concert Makana	If Only Bear's Den Nathaniel Rateliff Les Hay Babies Gregory Alan Isakov	Concert Jenn Grant
7:			

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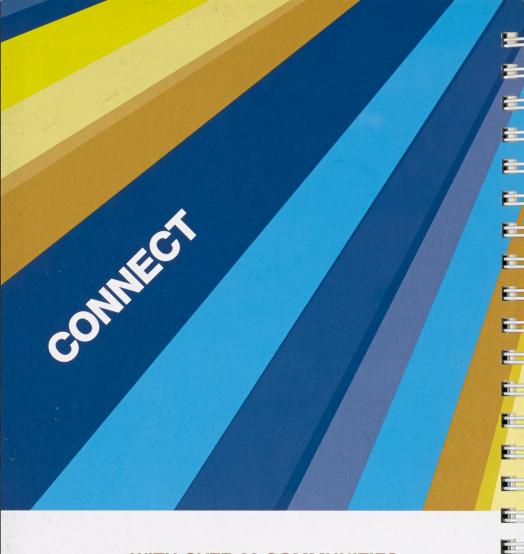
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Sunday Sessions

	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	
11:00	Easy Like Sunday Morning John Smith Amelia Curran Eliza Gilkyson	Community Danny Michel Aurelio Reuben and the Dark	Concert Hanggai	
12:00	Concert Eddie Berman	Concert Lynched	12:15 The Spirit Sings Mike Farris	
1:00	Concert Les Hay Babies	Concert Si Kahn	The McCrary Sisters Leo Bud Welch The Fairfield Four	
2:00	MAIN STAGE Aurelio			
3:00	Concert Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats	Globalization Danny Michel Brian McNeill Hanggai	Concert The Milk Carton Kids	
4:00	Concert Mike Farris	Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson 4:30	4:15 East and West The Barr Brothers Bassekou Kouyate	
5:00	Concert The McCrary Sisters	Concert I'm With Her	Harry Manx	
6:00	Concert The Fairfield Four	5:45 Trans Atlantic Crossing The Milk Carton Kids I'm With Her Eddie Berman I Draw Slow	5:45 A Few of My Favourite Strings Tony McManus and Beppe Gambetta Le Vent du Nord John Smith The Slocan Ramblers	
7:00		MAIN STAGE Jenny Lewis		

STAGE 5	STAGE 6	STAGE 7	
Lessons Learned Si Kahn Makana The Hearts	Four Strong Strings Oscar Lopez Calvin Vollrath Old Man Luedecke	Concert Braden Gates	11:0
Geoff Muldaur 12:30 Legacies	Le Vent du Nord	Concert I Draw Slow	12:0
Brian McNeill The Slocan Ramblers Helene Blum and Harold Haugaard Ross Ainslie and Jarlath Henderson	If At First Matt Andersen Lucius Good For Grapes Monica Heldal	Concert The Wind and the Wave	1:00
	MAIN STAGE Aurelio		2:00
Concert Emmauel Jal	Hearts and Bones The Once Jenny Lewis Jenn Grant	Concert Còig	3:00
4:15 Concert	Lucius 4:30	Concert Calvin Vollrath	4:00
Reuben and the Dark	Concert Frazey Ford	Concert	5:00
5:30 Role Models	5:45 The Song Remains	Monica Heldal	
Leonard Podolak Les Hay Babies Reuben and the Dark Chuck Brodsky	The Same Matt Andersen The Wind and the Wave Brandi Carlile Gregory Alan Isakov	Concert Leo Bud Welch	6:00
	MAIN STAGE Jenny Lewis	<u>i</u>	7:00



WITH OVER 30 COMMUNITIES, WE CONNECT PEOPLE EVERYDAY. WE HELP STRANGERS BECOME NEIGHBOURS.

Connect with old friends & make new ones at this year's Folk Fest.

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AMELIA CURRAN

Newfoundland

Amelia Curran is one serious songwriter. Her lyrics pour out in torrents, personal and observant, and chock full of images. There aren't many songwriters who could come up with such lines as "we keep our demons on the burner, and our morals on the shelf." Her emotional vocal style is just as serious: when Amelia sings, you are compelled to listen.

It's no wonder she has received many accolades during her 15-year career. She has won a number of East Coast and Newfoundland Music awards, a Juno, made the long list for the coveted Polaris as well as winning FACTOR and SOCAN awards.

As Spinner Canada wrote: "Like the best poets, Curran packs so much meaning into each line that the listener barely has time to register each clever lyric before the next zinger comes along." Mojo Magazine says that "what sets Curran apart is an absence of whimsy, the harsh light of experience driving her songs rather than wispy, idealized fantasy, and that grit ensures this material remains timeless."

Amelia cut her performing teeth in St John's, dropping out of university in 2000 to sing on the streets instead, which helped her develop a commanding presence.

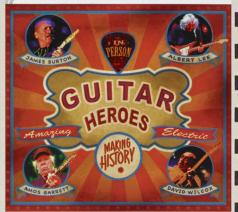
Lately she's also getting recognition for mental health advocacy work, thanks to a powerful, inclusive public service video she made. "I wanted to do some anti-stigma and awareness work," Amelia told *Now Magazine*, while acknowledging that she herself had sought help for depression.

Amelia's new album, *They Promised You Mercy*, her seventh since 2000, brings together the two sides of her work. Two of the songs were written to support and encourage people with mental illness, with the hope of getting more people talking about this huge health problem. JS

ameliacurran.com

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~ Albert Lee



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AMOS GARRETT AND THE FESTIVAL HOUSE BAND

Alberta, Ontario

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Our festival is fortunate to again have some of Canada's best musicians backing up headliners and strutting their own stuff.

The perennial leader of the house band is none other than the great **Amos Garrett**. Amos is known as one of the most unique pickers to put his hands on an electric guitar. His extreme string-bending technique puts him in a category of his own. Amos' work on Maria Muldaur's "Midnight at the Oasis" has been feted by critics as one of the greatest guitar solos of all time. Over the years he has toured and recorded with a variety of artists, from Paul Butterfield to lan and Sylvia.

With that resonant deep voice, Amos has also made a name as a band leader, performing gypsy jazz in the Cold Club and recording a tribute album to the R & B legend Percy Mayfield, which earned him a Juno nomination.

Born in Detroit and raised in Montreal, Amos is now a longtime resident of High River in southern Alberta, an area that has rewarded him with great fly fishing, but provided challenges during the flood of 2013.



Dave Babcock is the first-call saxophone player in Edmonton, and it's no wonder. Dave's versatility, whether playing his own brand of "cool jazz" or backing up such legends as Long John Baldry and Jay McShann, has enabled him to make a huge impact on the Alberta music scene.



Kit Johnson has been a mainstay of the Calgary music scene since 1999, when he moved west after decades of living in Toronto and playing bass with the likes of David Wilcox and Murray McLauchlan. He also has numerous composing and producing credits under his belt, including co-writing songs with Sarah Harmer and Alannah Myles.



Michelle Josef is one of Canada's top drummers and best-known transgender activists. She was a member of the legendary country band, Prairie Oyster, but has also done sessions with over 50 other performers, from Long John Baldry to Sharon, Lois and Bram.



Rusty Reed evokes the spirit of Little Walter when he blows on the blues harmonica. A winner of two Juno awards, Rusty also is living proof of the versatility of the harmonica, playing everything from classical to jazz. MS

melmusic.com/amos_garrett kitjohnson.ca michellejosef.com davebabcock.com



ANGUS & JULIA STONE

Australia

Angus & Julia Stone have been making music together for most of their lives. The Australian brother-sister indie folk duo grew up on the northern beaches near Sydney, and they were exposed to music at an early age. Their parents had played as a folk duo when they were younger, and Julia and Angus learned trumpet and trombone as youngsters. By his teens, Angus was writing songs and learning guitar, which inspired Julia to follow suit. By their 20s, they were playing open mics, performing their own songs and playing split sets, with each providing back-up vocals for the other's material.

For years they wrote separately, but achieved success as a duo, releasing their well-received debut *A Book Like This* in 2007. Their next effort *Down the Way* (2010), which included their mega hit "Big Jet Plane" introduced a bigger, bolder sound. The triple platinum selling album was a breakthrough success for the duo, entering the charts Down Under at No.1 and eventually earning them five Australian Music Industry awards.

After a two-year hiatus to pursue solo work, the siblings reunited for their third studio album in 2014, the eponymously titled *Angus & Julia Stone*. Released by Virgin EMI and produced by Def Jam founder and music industry heavy weight Rick Rubin, the disc is their highest charted record to date. Reminiscent of the work of Buddy and Julie Miller, the record is edgier than the other two, which is perhaps not an accident, given it is the first time in their careers that Julia and Angus have actually written an album together. "Call it a coming of age or reinvention, it's the duo's most exciting and visceral listen yet," says one critic. RK

angusandjulia.com



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ASHLEY MACISAAC

Nova Scotia

Ashley MacIsaac may have outgrown his "bad boy of world music" phase, but that doesn't mean he has mellowed out musically. He is still rockin' on that fiddle, whether he is playing traditional Cape Breton tunes or originals backed by a full-tilt rock band.

Ashley started playing professionally at the age of 11, and achieved fame in his teens after his groundbreaking album, *Hi, How Are You Today?*, went platinum in 1995.

Now 40, he is back in Cape Breton, married to Andrew Stokes and writing, playing and performing more than ever. "At 18 I was a star and lived like a star, with all the recklessness that implies. I lived in hotels. Now I have a house, a normal life, money and I still get to make the albums I want to make," he tells *Cashbox Canada* magazine.

Growing up in Cape Breton, he absorbed the local musical tradition as a youngster, becoming one of the most dynamic fiddlers of his generation. He was also influenced by rock music, and toured with The White Stripes. He has been on the *Conan O'Brien Show, The Today Show* and has appeared in several films.

One of the more interesting connections Ashley has made is with the avant-garde composer Philip Glass, who over the years has been his mentor and father figure. Ashley is deeply grateful for the friendship, and the opportunity to perform with his band, which he says brings music to a higher plane. The two performed together in March at the 25th Annual Tibet House Benefit Concert at Carnegie Hall. MP

ashleymacisaac.com



AURELIO

Honduras

For **Aurelio Martinez**, music is a fact of life and an indispensable expression of culture. Growing up in a Garifuna community on the Atlantic coast of Honduras, he began drumming for local celebrations at the age of eight, and gained an early knowledge of an ancestral culture that is normally withheld from children. He earned his musical chops playing with a variety of commercial bands and cultural groups in his teenage years. Over time, preserving the dying musical heritage of the Garifuna people—descendants of African slaves and Caribbean natives who trace their origin to an 18th-century shipwreck off the coast of St. Vincent—became increasingly important to him.

A key opportunity came when Aurelio met fellow Garifuna musician Andy Palacio and Belizean producer Ivan Duran in 1997, with whom he shared a vision, not only of preserving Garifuna music, but also of bringing it to an international audience. With Duran, Aurelio released his first album, *Garifuna Soul* (2004), which gained the positive attention of the world music press, and set his future as a cultural ambassador, one which has extended from music into politics. In 2005, he joined the recent phenomenon of Latin-American musicians accepting national political posts (which includes Brazil's Gilberto Gil and Peru's Susana Baca), becoming the first black member of the Honduras National Congress.

In contrast with his 2011 album *Laru Beya*, which explored the lost connections between Africa and America and featured collaborative work with Youssou N'Dour and Orchestra Baobob, Aurelio's most recent, *Lándini*, is, in his own words "purely Garifuna." His vision remains strong—as he recently told *Folk Radio UK*, "I want this to continue, for more artists to join me and keep this music alive. I want my children and grandchildren to take this music higher, to propel it beyond where we are now." DW

aureliomusic.bandpage.com



THE BARR BROTHERS Ouébec

The **Barr Brothers** owe their existence to romance and a simple twist of fate. Originally from Rhode Island, these real-life brothers, **Andrew** and **Brad Barr**, toured as the band, The Slip.

A trip to Montreal plus one club fire later, and their future was sealed. Evacuated onto the chilly streets of Montreal when fire broke out in the club, Andrew was offered a coat by a native Montrealer. Romance bloomed and one year later the brothers moved to the Canadian city where they fortuitously moved in next door to experimental harpist, **Sarah Page**, who had previously played with the renowned, Lhasa de Sela. Hearing her music through the thin walls, Brad initiated a friendship that turned into a musical collaboration.

Later adding multi instrumentalist, Andres Vial, The Barr Brothers in 2011 released their self-titled first album which went on to garner them Juno and Polaris Prize nominations. Appearances on *The Late Show with David Letterman* followed in 2012, and they have opened for Emmylou Harris, and played at festivals around the world.

In 2014 they released their sophomore album, *Sleeping Operator*, and most recently released a third album, *Alta Falls* a compilation of "misfit" songs that didn't make it onto *Sleeping Operator*. Their music is an ethereal combination folk meets rock meets world music. Backed by guitar, harp and drums, to the Malian ngoni and a homemade dulcimer, The Barr Brothers put a new spin on traditional folk-rock sound. EMR

thebarrbrothers.com



BASSEKOU KOUYATE AND NGONI BA Mali

It's been nearly a decade since **Bassekou Kouyate** blazed onto the international world music scene with his debut album *Segu Blue*. An undisputed master of the *ngoni*—the traditional instrument of the Malian *griot*—he has never been afraid to innovate in order to keep tradition alive. Inspired by the guitar-based rock bands that populated the Mali of his youth, he single-handedly turned the ngoni (which was used primarily for accompaniment) into a solo instrument. He transformed the lute-like instrument into one on which he could shred, adding pickups, additional strings, and even playing through electronic pedals. And in putting together his band, **Ngoni Ba** (Big Ngoni), he created the first ever all-ngoni band, painstakingly inventing the bass ngoni in the process.

Bassekou is one in a long line of griots, pre-colonial royal advisors who were historians as well as musicians and singers. They are "dictionaries," as he himself put it, and to this day provide music for life-cycle ceremonies. Bassekou began playing at the age of 12, and has boldly carried his music into the international arena. His 2013 album, *Jama Ko*, represented both a powerful musical statement on the previous year's Malian coup d'état, and a musical branching-out that included collaborations with Taj Mahal and Mocky Salole. His latest release, *Ba Power*, engages with the world even more widely, featuring a roster of Western guest musicians, stomping rock beats and electric quitar solos.

Considering that Bassekou has collaborated with a huge number of artists the world over—including Béla Fleck and Ali Farka Touré—and participated in international projects like AfroCubism and Africa Express, it is no surprise that he is turning the whole notion of world music on its head. DW

bassekoukouyate.com



BEAR'S DEN

England

The front man for **Bear's Den** describes the English trio as "... sort of like *Where the Wild Things Are*. We want our music to be an escape that you run away to as a kid or as an adult," says **Andrew Davie**. Formed in West London in 2012, by Andrew, **Kev Jones**, and **Joey Haynes**, the bearded band plays a secular spiritual brand of new folk music, driven by acoustic guitars, banjo and three-part harmonies.

As New York-based *Observer Music* says: "If you haven't heard of Bear's Den, stop everything you're doing, listen to 'Above The Clouds of Pompeii' and 'Isaac,' and prepare yourself for a religious experience. The London band's sophisticated blend of spiritual, acoustic folk rock is sure to leave you believing there is a god."

In an interview with *Music Times*, Andrew, who wrote the Ivor Novello Award-nominated "Pompeii," talked about the inspiration for it, which happened one night in a pub: "Someone was talking about Nietzsche, and this guy said you should build your home on the slopes of Vesuvius and live your life just as any day a volcano could erupt and flow. As soon as he said that, it led to the lyrics, 'We built our home out on the slopes / Pompeii beneath, she lay above.' It felt like a really good way of opening; I knew I wanted to write a song but I just didn't have the first line, and then it was just like, 'Yeah.'"

Bear's Den recently completed an entirely sold-out 17 date European tour and have released a short film documenting the tour to coincide with the summer release of "Pompeii" as a single. ER

bearsdenmusic.co.uk



BILL BOURNE

Alberta

Bill Bourne is a great role model for young musicians. After four decades in the music business, he hasn't stopped learning and expanding. Over the years he has explored Celtic, flamenco, blues, African and even garage rock, and he just keeps on growing.

With his long hair, top hat, "card shark face" and deep, gritty vocals, Bill is an icon of Alberta music. His career has seen 22 albums, a highly successful collaboration with Madagascar Slim and Lester Quitzau called Tri-Continental, and multiple Juno Awards.

A pastiche of reviews of Bill from his site describe his music as "... 'stellar'... 'ravaged poetry'... 'mesmerizing'... 'scat-charged'... 'gritty'... 'a veteran storyteller'... 'performance art'... 'inimitable'..." and all of it is true. His uplifting songs have created a genre of music unto itself.

Bill comes by his talents honestly. He is the great grandson of the renowned Icelandic poet Stefan Stefansson, and he claims his musical education began at the age of two, when he fell asleep behind the piano at the country dances where his parents' band would play. As he grew older, he stopped sleeping on or behind the instruments and started playing them. He also evolved a philosophy of music, which he has summed up as: "Music is a dance; a happy heart. Music is the great teacher. The life in Music is its power of transcendence: Music is a healing force that benefits all living beings."

Growing up in rural Alberta, he also cites nature as one of his great musical inspirations. Although he has appeared at Folkfest more than 25 times, he can still surprise the audience. Like that beat-up '69 Gibson Hummingbird that he bought new so long ago, Bill Bourne just keeps getting better with age. JS

billbourne.com



BOMBINO

Niger

Bombino's combination of electrifying guitar licks and hypnotic grooves with political passion make him such a powerful presence that you will feel the message of his music, even if you don't understand the language.

Born in 1980 near Agadez, Niger, **Omara "Bombino" Moctar** is one of 17 siblings. A member of the nomadic Tuareg people, Bombino sings about their politics and history in the Tuareg language, Tamashek. After a devastating drought in the mid-'80s killed most of the region's livestock, the Tuareg, a herding people, no longer had the means to provide for themselves. Feeling their concerns and desperate situation were being overlooked by their government, they formed a rebellion in 1990 proclaiming Tuareg rights and heritage.

Forced to flee to Algeria for safety, Bombino did not return to Agadez for seven years. During this time, he taught himself to play guitar using an instrument left behind by a relative. Studying the work of Mark Knopfler and Jimi Hendrix, he began to develop his own rhythmic guitar style—on the electric guitar.

For his people, the guitar is a powerful tool, an instrument used to tell their stories, guard their heritage and communicate their cause. So much so that following another uprising in 2007, the guitar was banned by the government, which saw it as a symbol of rebellion. Bombino remarked in an interview, "I do not see my guitar as a gun but rather as a hammer with which to help build the house of the Tuareq people."

In 2011 he was the subject of the documentary, "Agadez, the Music and the Rebellion" a film that led to the release of his first album, Agadez. His most recent album, Nomad came out in 2013 to great reviews leading Bombino on a tour of major festivals including Bonnaroo. EMR

bombinomusic.com



BRADEN GATES

Alberta

Edmonton's own **Braden Gates** is a folk singer, through and through, and in the best possible sense of the word. His songs are full of stories that flow through him easily, and with all the grace, empathy and nuance that masterful story-telling requires.

He is an impeccable instrumentalist—on guitar and fiddle—whose playing nonetheless never overshadows the songs themselves. He is also the owner of an invitingly rough-and-ready voice that never gets in the way of the characters that populate the songs. He has often been compared to a young Loudon Wainwright for the sharp observation and sly humour he brings to live performance.

Born and raised in Fort Saskatchewan, Braden grew up listening to his father Troy playing old-time tunes on the fiddle, and then playing himself. It was getting into John Hartford in his mid-teens (for the fiddle, at first) that turned him on to the craft of songwriting, leading him to the great story-tellers of the firmament—Guy Clark, Tom Waits, John Prine. He has maintained an equal and complementary love for both streams of influence and they fuse beautifully through his two albums, *Break it to Me Gently* (2013) and *Ferris Wheel* (2014).

It has already been an eventful year for Braden, as he was one of four Albertan artists chosen to represent the province in a musical exchange with Iceland, which saw him paired with Icelandic musician Lay Low for performances in both Reykjavik and Edmonton. Still early-on in his career, Braden has a wonderful set of musical skills that the rest of the world is just beginning to discover. DW

bradengates.com



BRANDI CARLILE

United States

Brandi Carlile's voice is more than just powerful—it's a conveyor belt of a wide range of emotion. Indeed, as the *Boston Globe* says, she has the "most arresting voice in pop this side of Adele." She appeared on the *The David Letterman Show* with President Barack Obama, sang with Elvis Costello, performed at the Country Music Hall of Fame and has released six fine albums.

Hailing from a small town in Washington State, Brandi started writing songs at the age of 12. Later in her teens she met twin brothers **Tim** and **Phil Hanseroth**, with whom she forged a strong musical partnership that today is the very core of the band. All three write songs and share the credits equally, and while Brandi's voice takes centre stage, their arrangements feature tight three-way harmonies and instrumental work.

Signed by Columbia Records in 2005 on the strength of several self-released recordings, Brandi was named one of the artists to watch" by *Rolling Stone*. The artist's sophomore effort, *The Story* was produced by the legendary T Bone Burnett and the highly-acclaimed *Give Up the Ghost*, produced by music industry titan Rick Rubin in late 2009, made the American Top 40.

In 2012, the band recorded the country-tinged album Bear Creek that takes its title from the Washington recording studio in which the album was made. And while Brandi and the twins have all recently started families, that hasn't slowed them down. Their latest disc, The Firewatcher's Daughter, captures the erratic, reckless and powerful sound of true rock and roll. Recorded almost entirely in first takes without rehearsals, the album has the feel of a live concert—a treat for anyone who has seen one of Brandi's legendary shows. RK

brandicarlile.com



BRIAN MCNEILL

Scotland

Brian McNeill is a multi-instrumentalist, a composer, a producer, a teacher, a musical director, and a novelist, with a career spanning 45 years and a formidable reputation as one of Scotland's leading songwriters. A founding member of the Battlefield Band in 1969, he continues to perform all over the world, as a solo artist and as a member of the UK fiddle phenomenon Feast of Fiddles. Despite this fact, he remains deeply connected to his home town of Falkirk, and in 2014 was commissioned to write, produce, direct, and perform music for the Falkirk Music Pot project, producing and curating a CD with local schools and music groups.

Brian is perhaps most renowned for his songwriting and *The Scotsman* has praised him as "Scotland's most meaningful contemporary songwriter." His canon is full of historically-focused and yet thematically timeless songs that have been widely covered by other artists, perhaps most notably and extensively by Dick Gaughan, his erstwhile bandmate in 1990s Scottish super-group Clan Alba. Gaughan opened his Folkfest set last summer with Brian's breathtaking and vociferously political "No Gods." But Brian is also a virtuoso on fiddle, bouzouki, mandocello, guitar, and concertina, and he founded and chaired the Scottish Music program at Glasgow's Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama for six years starting in 2001.

As if that isn't enough for one man to accomplish in one lifetime, Brian is the creator of two critically-acclaimed audio visual shows—*The Back O' The North Wind*, about Scottish emigration to America, and the sequel, *The Baltic Tae Byzantium*, exploring the influence of the Scots in Europe—and has published three crime novels centered on his busker hero, Alex Fraser, and private sleuth heroine, Sammy Knox. DW

brianmcneill.co.uk



CALVIN VOLLRATH

Alberta

Calvin Vollrath is nothing short of a fiddle legend, and he is Alberta's own. He is an influence on and mentor to many of Canada's most prominent fiddlers, including April Verch, Samantha Robichaud, and Edmontonian Daniel Gervais, winner of the 2011 Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Championship. He is also a prodigious composer and recording artist—to date, he has written more than 475 tunes and recorded 60 albums. His fans are disappointed during years in which he only released three albums, and he shows no signs of slowing his pace.

Calvin got his first fiddle at the age of eight, and learned from his dad, Art "Lefty" Vollrath, who played for local dances throughout Calvin's childhood. As he put it, "... his music had a ton of feel to it. That's what I grew up with... I just thought everybody did that." Later, Calvin played with country bands, and it was learning to improvise in that context that got him composing. Renowned for his ability to play and compose in the style of a slew of fiddle traditions, he is currently the only Canadian of European descent who is considered a master of Métis fiddling.

The honours and recognitions Calvin has received for his work are too numerous to mention, but include induction in the North American Fiddlers Hall of Fame, a lifetime achievement award from the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddlers Association, and a commission to compose five tunes for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics opening ceremony, each representing a different Canadian fiddle tradition. He is also a sought-after instructor, and since 2007 has run his own fiddle camp, Camp Calvin. Above all, he is an infectious live performer. As one audience member put it, "if you can't dance to that, you'd better check your pulse." DW

calvinvollrath.com



CHUCK BRODSKY

United States

Chuck Brodsky is probably the only folksinger who has performed at the Baseball Hall of Fame.

A life-long fanatic for the Philadelphia Phillies from the city where he was raised, Chuck has produced two albums of songs he wrote about the characters who have spiced up the game of baseball. They include a pitcher who threw a no-hitter while high on LSD, the first white man in the Negro leagues, the Clown Prince of baseball and many more. They earned him three invitations to perform at the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and his songs have been enshrined in the hall's sound archives.

But Chuck's work is not totally about baseball. He has recorded a dozen other albums that tell stories about the underdog and celebrate the beauty of humanity. He is a modern-day troubadour, who adds a large dollop of humour to his songs. As a reviewer in *Florida Today* wrote: "If Mark Twain was reincarnated as a musician, his name would be Chuck Brodsky."

As a youngster Chuck learned to play piano. But in his first week of university, he decided to buy a guitar after seeing some folks sitting around jamming. He soon dropped out of university, hitch hiked to San Francisco, and started playing open stages and coffee houses while supporting himself with survival jobs such as picking fruit.

His career took off in the early '90s, when he won an award at the Napa Valley Folk Festival and he was warmly received at the festival in Kerrville, Texas. He has performed in many countries, from Canada to Lithuania, and his songs have been used in documentaries and movies, including the baseball film *Radio*.

While he lives in North Carolina, Chuck has had a strong Canadian connection, with four of his albums produced by Cape Breton's J.P. Cormier. EMR

chuckbrodsky.com



CÒIG

Nova Scotia

Còig is the Scots Gaelic word for five, but that hardly describes the energy emitted by this quintet of young Cape Breton musicians. With three fiddles powering the melody, and driven rhythmically by bouzouki and piano and sometimes banjo, they produce a wall of Celtic sound.

Each member had a successful solo career, with a combined total of over 30 nominations and awards. But a collaboration at the Cape Breton Celtic Colours International Festival led to a decision to stay together, and they have become a serious force in the East Coast traditional music scene.

Their much anticipated debut album, *Five*, was released in June 2014 and has earned the band the 2014 Canadian Folk Music Award for Traditional Album of the Year, as well as Music Nova Scotia and East Coast Music awards. Alex Monaghan of *FolkWorld.eu* writes: "A bit of French, a bit of Irish, a wee dram of Gaelic and a full helping of Cape Breton Scotch: this is a mighty powerful fiddle cocktail from Còig."

The impressive lineup includes fiddler **Chrissy Crowley**, who embraces her Celtic roots and makes them her own, through original compositions coupled with contemporary arrangements of traditional tunes. **Darren McMullen** is a highly sought-after multi-instrumentalist. Easily switching between guitar, mandolin, whistle, and banjo, he both drives the rhythm and rips into impressive solos.

In a genre that sees many performers pushing the envelope and testing new waters, **Rachel Davis** takes a more traditional approach to her fiddle playing and is a reminder why Cape Breton fiddlers are sought after. **Jason Roach** plays the piano with intensity, bringing together the overall sound, while **Colin Grant**'s versatility has made him a busy fiddle player as a sideman in many genres and as a member of bands such as Sprag Session. ER



DANNY MICHEL

Ontario

If you have seen a vintage boogie van pull into your town this summer, you might have found **Danny Michel**. This vintage 1978 GMC Vadura boogie van, airbrushed with *Star Trek* imagery is called "Dan's Space Van," and constituted the wheels for a national tour. From the confines of the van's diamond-quilted, crushed red velvet interior, Danny and a range of musical guests have chatted and performed for web casts.

Danny has already racked up many miles in his solo career, which began in the late '90s, and encompassed eight studio albums—including an entire album of David Bowie covers—and a couple of live albums to boot. He fell in love with the Central American country of Belize, relocating there in 2011 and founding The Danny Michel Ocean Academy Fund for a small non-profit school on Belize's Caye Caulker.

He also connected with the late Andy Palacio's band, the Garifuna Collective, and recorded 2012's universally acclaimed *Black Birds Are Dancing Over Me. Billboard* called it "one of the finest musical works of our time," and it earned Danny both a Polaris Prize and the third Juno nomination of his career.

He followed up a sold-out North American tour with the collective by launching an intimate and relaxed music series called School Night Mondays in Toronto's Dakota Tavern, which has seen him take the stage with everyone from astronaut Chris Hadfield to Sarah Harmer and Jim Cuddy.

Danny is, as *RootsWorld* puts it, "an original voice that references and yet transcends the lyrical incision of Dylan, the songwriting gift and earnest poetics of Paul Simon, the depth of Bob Marley or Toots Hibbert, and hooks worthy of The Police and The Talking Heads." SH

dannymichel.com

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- 27 | DakhaBrakha

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- 17 | Amelia Curran
- 23 | The Official Blues Brothers Revue
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NOVEMBER

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- 12 | Six Guitars

DECEMBER

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JANUARY

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FEBRUARY

- 3 | Noisy Theatre with Mary Lambert: Swinging on a Star*
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- 6 | Ron James
- 12 | Montreal Guitar Trio & California Guitar Trio
- 14 | Bobs & LoLo*
- 20 | Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal
- 25 | Lennie Gallant
- 26 | The Hearts & The Provincial Archive
- 27 | Alejandra Ribera

MARCH

- 17 | Sharon Shannon
- 18 | Juan de Marcos & The Afro-Cuban All Stars
- 29 | Cirque Alfonse presents Timber!

APRIL

- 1 | Choir! Choir! Choir!
- 15 & 16 | Matthew Barber & Jill Barber present The Family Album
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THE DUHKS

Manitoba/Québec/Sweden

After nearly 15 years, **The Duhks** still find a way to be fresh and relevant. They make the old and familiar sound new with their blend of a wide range of music, from French Canadian to Afro-Cuban rhythms, from blues to bluegrass.

Formed in Winnipeg in 2001 the folk group's quirky name derives from clawhammer banjoist **Leonard Podolak**'s previous band Scruj MacDuhk. Looking to assemble a new act, Leonard along with lead singer and co-founding member **Jessee Havey** recruited fiddler **Tania Elizabeth**, and guitarist **Jordan McConnell**. In 2003 the original line up recorded The Duhks' first Grammy nominated album, *Your Daughters & Your Sons*.

With percussionist **Scott Senior** soon on board, the group found itself in higher musical circles, signed by Sugar Hill Records with albums produced by Béla Fleck and Tim O'Brien. Those albums, *The Duhks* and *Migrations*, earned the band a Juno and a Grammy nomination.

With Jessee's departure to pursue other interests and several more personnel changes, the band over the next two years released a couple of live albums, the Grammynominated Fast Paced World (2008) followed by a live recording at the 2009 Merle Fest in North Carolina.

The band's latest offering Beyond the Blue (2014) was funded with money raised through the crowd sourcing site Indiegogo. The new record reunites the band's original members and introduces two new permanent members, Québécois multi-instrumentalist Colin Savoie-Levac on guitar and Swedish fiddling phenom Anna Lindbald on violin.

Critics have been raving about the current collective power of The Duhks. As the *Boston Globe* said, "Canada's premier neo-tradsters romp from world-beat to blues, urban pop to old-timey, with wild-eyed invention, haunting traditionalism and spine-rattling groove." RK



EDDIE BERMAN

United States

Growing up in southern California, Eddie Berman wanted to be a cinematographer. His family would have regular movie nights, watching films by Hitchcock, Bergman and Kurosawa. Young Eddie not only saw the story in the movies but noticed the light, the angles, the vivid images in the shots, and thought, he'd like to make those kinds of things.

In the end, cinematography's loss became music's gain. But Eddie's music, backed by intricate finger-picked guitar, does have a very graphic aspect to it, many of his songs seem to be simple pieces but there's also a visceral, visual storytelling element in them.

It took a while for Eddie's music to catch on with audiences. He wrote songs as a teenager and into his 20s, some of them getting airplay on the local public radio station. He left California, heading to London for a music residency. And it was there that he captured the greater public's attention.

During his time in London, he did some sessions with Nu-Folk goddess and Mercury Prize nominee, Laura Marling. Their quiet, yet compelling cover of Bruce Springsteen's "Dancing in the Dark" captured the public's attention, the video being shared around the world. The duo also did a series of other songs but it was another cover, a stripped down version of Bob Dylan's "Like A Rolling Stone," that also garnered attention on social media.

That attention lead to the recording of his debut album, Polyhymnia. "With melodic guitar, flailing banjo, and rich harmonica, Eddie Berman's sound is an aural hot shower to warm your mid-winter frostbitten ears," wrote a reviewer from the lab magazine. "His storytelling style and vivid imagery transcend time and place." WA

eddiebermanmusic.com



EDWARD SHARPE AND THE MAGNETIC ZEROS

United States

It was in 2002, so the story goes, that former Ima Robot frontman **Alex Ebert** first created both the messianic character and a new mathematics, ideas that would lend their names to what would five years later become the California-based band **Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros**. A bit like stumbling into a cross between a 1960s Merry Pranksters acid test and a gypsy-inspired Cirque du Soleil show, Alex and a shifting lineup of as many as a dozen bandmates quickly became renowned for the joyous spectacles of their live shows—a raucously euphoric assemblage of bounding bodies, driving percussion, horns, accordion, keyboards, ukulele, handclaps and whistling.

A frequently changing musical collective made up of friends and friends-of-friends from Los Angeles, their 2009 debut album *Up From Below*, the outcome of a year-and-a-half recording endeavour, was greeted with wide acclaim for its jangly and catchy '60s-inspired psychedelic folk anthems and uplifting lyrics, full of songs like "40 Day Dream" and "Home" which, in the words of *hearya.com*, "make you want to crap sunshine."

Two more studio albums followed, 2012's *Here* and an eponymous album the following year, while the band kept up a packed touring schedule to appease a growing fan base. Along the way, they discovered that "we went from social experiment to accidentally becoming a great band" and committed "to write music especially designed to perform live, and to become the very best band we can possibly be."

A live album, *Live in No Particular Order*, was released in the spring of 2015. The band's fourth studio album—a still-unnamed effort that debuted in a secret show at this year's SXSW in March—is to be released this summer. SH

edwardsharpeandthemagneticzeros.com



ELIZA GILKYSON

United States

Eliza Gilkyson is well into her 60s, and still just coming into her own. Her most recent album, *The Nocturne Diaries*, received a Grammy nomination; her songs have been widely covered by the likes of Joan Baez and Bob Geldof and she is a member of the Austin Music Hall of Fame. Her song, "Requiem," became a hymn to commemorate the tsunami in southeast Asia. With her unique, slightly breathy, even soothing voice, Eliza presents her songs with a subtlety that makes her commitment extremely effective.

But as she told an interviewer on National Public Radio, she is still on the verge of self discovery, and still developing her craft as one of America's most respected songwriters. Despite her accomplishments and being close to an old age pension, Eliza is not ready to rest on her laurels, but continues to write, record and participate in projects such as a tribute album to Jackson Browne.

Born in Hollywood, Eliza's skill is very much a family affair. Her father, Terry Gilkyson, wrote many songs for the movies, including "The Bare Necessities" from *The Jungle Book* and the huge hit, "Green Fields." Her own musical career started in her teen years, singing demos for her dad. Her brother Tony is a top studio musician whose guitar playing can be heard on the Johnny Cash biopic, *Walk the Line*. And the family involvement goes to the next generation with her son, Cisco Ryder, producing the sessions on *Nocturne Diaries*.

Eliza's writing is very much affected by her activism. She is passionate about the environment, and has said she has a difficult time seeing suffering around her in a society that is so affluent. She devotes much of her spare time to political and environmental causes around her current home town of Austin. EMR

elizagilkyson.com



EMMANUEL JAL

Ontario, South Sudan

Creating music that has been described as powerful, inspirational and healing; hip hop artist, activist humanitarian and actor **Emmanuel Jal** has earned international acclaim for his message of peace and reconciliation born out of his gripping journey as a child soldier in southern Sudan.

Now based in Toronto, Emmanuel first rose to prominence by sharing the story of his past in the biography *War Child* (and documentary of the same name), which was published in 2009. Leading up to the book, Emmanuel had released three albums: his debut *Gua* in 2005, and the single by the same name that was a No. 1 hit in Kenya; *Ceasefire*, which is a major plea for peace and sanity; and *Warchild* that tells his amazing story of life as a child soldier and his subsequent experiences on arrival to the West. His fourth album *See Me Mama*, released in 2012, is a tribute to his mother who was killed in the Sudanese civil war when he was seven.

Emmanuel's fifth studio album is the Juno-nominated *The Key*, released in 2014. The 13-track CD includes collaborations with Grammy-award winning artists Nile Rodgers and Nelly Furtado, and is said to be his most ambitious music project to date. The album seamlessly blends traditional African music with contemporary urban, hip hop, reggae and global pop music rhythms.

Two songs from Emmanuel's latest album ("Scars" and "We Fall") are also featured on the Warner Brothers' soundtrack from the film *The Good Lie*, which is based on a fictionalized account of Sudan's Lost Boys. Critically-acclaimed at last year's Toronto film festival, Emmanual stars in the film with Academy-award winning actress Reese Witherspoon. One of Emmanuel's greatest passions is Gua Africa, the charity he founded to help overcome the effects of war and poverty. RK

emmanueljal.com



THE FAIRFIELD FOUR

United States

Considered the pioneers of traditional African American a capella style gospel, **The Fairfield Four** are legendary and continue to maintain the same musical authenticity that distinguished their early founders nearly a century ago. Along the way, their rhythmic, emotional manner has touched countless listeners and influenced generations of performers like Sam Cooke and Aretha Franklin.

Starting out as a trio in 1921 in Nashville's Fairfield Baptist Church, the group was transformed into a quartet by the 1930s. Over the next two decades they were among the highest ranked gospel groups renowned for their soulful voices, which music historian Bill Carpenter describes as "moving easily from deep, rolling bass lines to the staccato upper peaks of the tenor range, all executed with precise, intricate harmonies and ever-shifting leads."

After a highly successful run, the group's popularity began to decline during the post-war years when their blend of "heritage music" which included hymns, slave songs and jubilees, seemed out of step with the growing civil rights movement. After a long hiatus and some personnel changes, the group reunited in the 1980s and began to experience a resurgence that has led to a level of recognition that surpasses even their early glory days.

Today, the quartet is best known for appearing on the soundtrack and screen of the hugely successful film *O Brother, Where Art Thou* (2000) and contributing to John Fogerty's comeback album *Blue Moon Swamp* (1997). During the '90s, the Grammy award-winners also garnered numerous honours and amassed an impressive collection of their own recordings.

The current line-up of **Joe Thompson**, **Levert Allison**, **Bobbye Sherrell** and **Larrice Bryd** are determined to keep The Fairfield Four legacy alive, a commitment that is evident in the new offering, *Still Rockin' My Soul!* RK

thefairfieldfour.com



FRAZEY FORD British Columbia

With her warbling, crooning voice, **Frazey Ford**'s music is instantly recognizable. You first heard her as one of the founding members of The Be Good Tanyas. After several critically acclaimed albums with the all-female bluegrassflavoured group, she first struck out on her own in 2010 on an intensely personal recording, *Obadiah*.

For *Obadiah*, Frazey channelled her background: she was born into the crunchy communes of the '70s Kootenays, the daughter of draft dodgers. She travelled around Asia as a child. Her solo album emerged as a meditation on and an ode to her rural BC roots, motherhood and nature.

This year Frazey is touring her new album, the stunning *Indian Ocean*. Recorded in Memphis's Royal Studios, Frazey enlisted the Hi Rhythm Section, known for playing with Al Green in the '70s. As NPR puts it, the combination of Charles Hodges (organ), Leroy Hodges (bass) and Teenie Hodges (guitar), who died after recording the album, "act as fluorescing agents on Ford's performance, brightening her brights and darkening her darks with an intensity unmatched on 2010's *Obadiah*."

When recording the album, Frazey says she felt "the energy and history of the place coming up through the floor." Many considered the album one of the top releases of 2014 and acclaimed it a country soul gem. It invited comparisons to Cat Powers' *The Greatest* and was praised for bringing into contemporary relief the prowess of the Hi Rhythm Section.

Britain's *Uncut* observes: "Ford's voice is a wonder, scrunching and chewing up words into airy new shapes that are not always clear, but which have an emotional intensity that's gestural more than emphatic... It's an album where fraught epiphanies ride on the most effortless grooves." JS

frazeyford.com



GEOFF MULDAUR

United States

Geoff Muldaur is well known to be a musician's musician. The flawless mix of respect and ingenuity he brings to the rich body of American roots music, along with a distinctive guitar style and a voice at once smokey and honeyed, has earned him the praise and admiration of an impressive number of his peers—from Lucinda Williams and John Cale to Richard Thompson, who has said, "There are only three white blues singers — Geoff Muldaur is at least two of them."

As one of the young enthusiasts who hungrily sought the roots of American music in old 78s and in Harry Smith's *Anthology of American Folk Music,* Geoff was a key figure in the folk, blues and folk-rock scenes of 1960s Cambridge, Massachusetts and Woodstock, New York. He made several influential recordings with the Jim Kweskin Jug Band, which included his then-wife Maria Muldaur, and Paul Butterfield's Better Days, amongst many others. He remained productive even through the long "working sabbatical" he took from performing and recording starting in the mid-1980s. During that time he composed scores for film and television, produced albums for the likes of the Richard Greene String Quartet, and his own recording of "Brazil" provided the seed for Terry Gilliam's classic film.

Since his "return" to recording in 1998, Geoff has released a string of albums that demonstrate the range of his knowledge and creativity—from *Private Astronomy*, which features rich and inventive arrangements of Bix Beiderbecke songs, to the wonderfully delicate solo live album *Beautiful Isle of Somewhere*, and his more recent tribute to the late Stephen Bruton, *Texas Sheiks*. DW

geoffmuldaur.com



GOOD FOR GRAPES

British Columbia

Much of **Good for Grapes**' short and remarkable history is so perfect that it almost seems apocryphal. A group of high school friends on their way from Vancouver to Victoria for some busking in the fall of 2010 start jamming together on the deck of the ferry, and the enthusiastic response from an ever-expanding crowd convinces them to continue as a band.

Within months, the sextet (comprised of guitarist and singer/songwriter **Daniel McBurnie**, guitarist **Graham Gomez**, bassist **Robert Hardie**, keyboardist **Alexa Unwin**, cellist **Alex Hauka**, and percussionist **Will Watson**) released an EP and started playing small gigs around the Lower Mainland. Their unique and energetic brand of neo-folk stomp, with bursting rhythms and tight harmonies, quickly built a loyal following throughout BC during their tour in the summer of 2012, and their spirited live shows became famous for the joyful singing, clapping, and stomping of the growing crowds.

A post on the Facebook wall of fellow Vancouver-based artist Dan Mangan attracted the attention of his producer, Colin Stewart, and six months later the band was in the studio with him recording their debut full length album, Man On The Page. While the members of Good for Grapes are just in their early 20s, their abundant talent as musicians is undeniable, and they've been racking up the accolades at a feverish pace, including winning Rogers Battle of the Bands, Supernova's Band on the Run to the UK, Edmonton Folk Festival's own emerging artist award in 2013, and most recently, the \$100,000 top prize in Peak Performance Project BC. This spring the band headed back into the studio to record their much-anticipated sophomore album. SH

goodforgrapes.com



GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV

United States

Gregory Alan Isakov has been travelling his whole life. Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, his family moved to Philadelphia when Gregory was a boy, and shifted from place to place almost every year. That constant movement of his childhood continued when Gregory started on the road as a touring musician at the age of 16, spending most of his career as a solo artist, although of late he's been playing more with a backing band.

When he's not on the road, Gregory now calls Boulder, Colorado home. This shifting life on the road is well reflected in his music, his sound a dusty and well-worn folk; his lyrics filled with introspective and beautifully evocative tales of sometimes literal, sometimes metaphysical travels of landscapes, searching and longing for a place to call home. In the past year he has toured extensively in Europe, played with the Seattle Symphony and at Bonnaroo and crisscrossed the United States on three separate tours, plus opened another for Iron and Wine.

Described as "strong, subtle, a lyrical genius," his live shows are increasingly renowned for their riveting emotional intensity. "At certain points... the room was so quiet that it was possible to hear the rustling of clothing, or the scratching of a pen on paper. Such is the spell that this Colorado resident can cast over a crowd with his brooding songs about wanderlust and romance," says the *Boston Globe* of a recent sold-out two-night stand.

His 2013 album, *The Weatherman*, has been met with widespread praise, with *Indie-Music* saying, "At times, it feels too perfect... he has found the musical sweet spot with this record, surpassing his previous work and moving forward with a new standard of beauty in its rawness and simplicity." SH

gregoryalanisakov.com

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HANGGAI

China

Hanggai is a musical meeting place of East and West. The six-piece Chinese band draws equal influence from rock and Mongolian instrumental and throat-singing traditions. Over the last decade, their adventurous blending of the modern with the ancient has taken them on a journey from the underground of Beijing's rock scene, into the grasslands of Inner Mongolia and onto the international stages of the world music circuit.

The band's founder, **Yiliqi** (or Ilchi), was born in Inner Mongolia but moved to Beijing with his family at the age of 12. Like many Mongolians, he had lost touch with his cultural and linguistic roots until 2005, when he returned to Mongolia to study throat-singing and to collect traditional folk songs. He also took up the *tobshuur* (a two-stringed Mongolian banjo) and began writing music inspired by the traditions in which he was immersing himself. Yiliqi had to learn Mongolian and throat singing in order to save them from extinction. He had to re-tie threads of knowledge from his own ancestry that had been broken by the hegemony of Han Chinese culture.

And yet Hanggai does not shy away from the inevitable influence of mainstream culture. Through the band's three albums, *Introducing Hanggai* (2008), *He Who Travels Far* (2010), and *Baifang* (2014), Hanggai has perfected the marriage of these traditional forms and instruments with a powerful modern rock sensibility, a blend praised by *The Australian* as "an irresistible combination of instrumental and vocal virtuosity." And since the band's current lineup features musicians from Beijing and the western Chinese province of Xinjiang, as well as Inner Mongolia, China's long-threatened cultural diversity seems safe in their hands. DW

myspace.com/hanggaiband



HARRY MANX

British Columbia

Harry Manx is often described as an "essential link" between the music of The East and The West. Through the 13 albums he has released in the last 14 years, including his debut *Dog My Cat* (2001), *Bread and Buddha* (2009), and the more recent *Om Suite Ohm* (2013), his signature "Mysticssippi" sound reveals a passion for exploring the common ground between blues scales and Indian ragas. A passion as prolific and enduring as his love for a good pun.

Born on the Isle of Man and raised in Ontario, Harry cut his teeth as a sound man at Toronto's El Mocambo, the venerable blues club that hosted the likes of Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon and even The Rolling Stones in the '70s. At the age of 20, he moved to Europe and then Japan, where he made his living as a busker and a oneman band for the better part of a couple of decades. It was in Japan that Harry happened on the music of Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, which eventually led to him living with the master Indian musician and inventor of the mohan veena (now Harry's signature instrument) for five years in a traditional master-disciple relationship.

Harry's original songs and adventurous covers—he tackled John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" on *Om Suite Ohm*—have built him a solid reputation as a roots and blues musician, albeit with an Eastern influence. But his latest offering, *20 Strings and the Truth*, features exclusively instrumental tracks that live more fully in the realm of Indian music, one in which its role is (in Harry's own words) "to deepen the silence and bring the moment to the forefront." DW

harrymanx.com



THE HEARTS

Alberta

In many ways, Edmonton indie darlings, **The Hearts**, are an ideal reflection of the best of the band's hometown: an honest, hardworking, talented, heart-on-sleeve, always-experimenting collective effort that is attracting more and more attention far beyond the confines of Dirt City.

Long renowned locally for their musicianship, The Hearts are building a committed following all across North America. Led by chief songwriter **Jeff Stuart**, this band of multi-instrumentalists also includes **Gavin Dunn**, **Dwayne Martineau**, **Chris Quesnel**, **Michelle Sabourin**, and **Brad Tebble**.

Their music is atmospheric and experimental, mixing alt-country, folk-rock and roots. With two acclaimed albums—*Black Dogs Blue Giants* (2009) and *Equal Parts Reason and Moonlight* (2011)—behind them, they're set to release their much-anticipated new album, *Equal Love*, this year. They've brought their much-revered live show to multiple festivals and on tour, criss-crossing Canada and beyond, including representing Edmonton at this spring's SXSW in Austin.

The band's abundant talent has earned them no shortage of accolades, and *Equal Parts Reason and Moonlight* was selected as the best album of the year by Grant Stovel of CKUA, who raves, "A general sense of rampant creativity lends these heartfelt, plaintive songs a dreamy, unpredictable quality that keeps the listener engaged from the disc's beginning to its end... the ambitious arrangements highlight Stuart's songwriting and vocal performances to great effect, burnishing the lustrous melodies with layer upon layer of musical dynamism. It's elegant, sophisticated, daring and brilliantly creative, but more than anything, just as the band's name suggests, this music is indeed from the heart." SH

thehearts.com



HELENE BLUM AND HARALD HAUGAARD Denmark

Helene Blum and **Harald Haugaard** represent the very best of Danish traditional and contemporary music. Harald is a magnificent, inventive virtuoso on the fiddle while Helen thrills audiences with her intensely expressive, crystal clear voice and is one of the finest interpreters of Danish traditional singing. Together, poetry is their inspiration, from Hans Christian Andersen to modernist poet Poul Borum. The passion they bring to their playing has ignited the world of Danish music.

Using ancient songs and ballads as a base, Helene reinvents them with contemporary expressions and mixes them elegantly with newly written songs, including her own. When talking about her music Blum says: "I am extremely curious and live in a flow of inspiration from music, poetry, art and nature. I use life to discover all that is possible. My journey has sometimes been down dark roads instead of going the easy way. But it gives me a richness to feel the depth instead of floating on the surface. It's easy to choose the light, but if you make an effort and go below the reward is great."

Harald has received many honours and awards, and the British music magazine, *fRoots* has called him one of the very best fiddlers in the world. Every summer since 2008, he has brought together a group of the best artists and tutors from the contemporary Nordic and Anglo/Celtic music scenes to his own international fiddle school. ER

nisswastamman.org



I DRAW SLOW

Ireland

I **Draw Slow** are from Dublin, Ireland, but you can hear the music of Appalachia in their sound. It's a wheel turned full circle: early American stringband music borrowed heavily from Irish music, and now this five-piece band from Ireland is coming to North America, playing old-time music in an inimitable Irish fashion.

The band is fronted by siblings **Dave** and **Louise Holden**, who write songs of light and darkness, wonder and debauchery, inviting comparisons to the likes of Alison Krauss and Gillian Welch. Dave had played many types of music, but he became aware of bluegrass music about eight years ago while busking in Australia.

I Draw Slow was formed in 2008 with the addition of **Adrian Hart** on violin, **Colin Derham** on clawhammer banjo and **Konrad Liddy** on double bass. Their big break came in 2012, when the video of their song, "Goldmine," created such a buzz that they were invited to the big International Bluegrass Music Association convention in Nashville. That led to a US tour of six states, including the prestigious Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival in the Catskill Mountains of New York State. There they found themselves joined by three bluegrass legends — Tim O'Brien, Chris Thile and Jerry Douglas — playing their songs. "It was a dream come true," Dave told the Los Angeles-based website *Bluegrass Situation*.

Despite the Americana sound, the music they all grew up with creeps into the mix, which is one of the factors that attracts so many listeners. "I think it's great when we get over here people hear Irish music," Dave said. "So we aren't completely ignoring our roots." MP

Idrawslow.com



I'M WITH HER

United States

Take three of the finest female vocalists and instrumentalists in today's American string music, and watch the magic happen. All three of the women in **I'm With Her** have been in award-winning bands, had successful solo careers and have made their individual marks on roots music. Each has her own style, but the chemistry results in a wonderful dynamic that pushes them each to a new zone.

Sara Watkins started making her name over 25 years ago as the fiddle player/vocalist in Nickel Creek, which also kickstarted the career of mandolin wonder Chris Thile. Nickel Creek was the vanguard of a new generation of acoustic musicians. Sara, who is also an adept guitar and ukulele player, has also released two solo discs and recently toured as a percussionist with The Decemberists.

Sarah Jarosz, who plays just about anything with strings, was recording albums when barely out of high school and is a roots music veteran at the age of 23. Her 2013 disc, *Build Me Up from Bones*, received several Grammy nominations. Her mature songwriting and subtle vocals, as well as instrumental prowess, earn her respect from the folk, bluegrass and Americana scenes.

Aoife O'Donovan was that ethereal voice and principal songwriter behind that driving stringband, Crooked Still. Her unique voice has made her a sought-after guest on the albums of numerous artists, from Alison Krauss to the Grammy-winning *Goat Rodeo Sessions*, which included the famed cellist Yo-Yo Ma. She also recently released a solo album. *Fossils*.

This all-star trio plays each other's songs, traditional tunes and some well-chosen covers. As Sarah Jarosz said on the eve of their tour: "I'm really excited about this trio because we each do our own thing and we each do it differently, so I'm looking forward to the unique possibilities that come with combining our individual voices." MS

sarawatkins.com sarahjarosz.com aoifeodonovan.com



JENN GRANT

Nova Scotia

Jenn Grant is one of Canada's quiet superstars. With five albums and a slew of Juno nominations and East Coast Music Awards under her belt, the Halifax-based singer-songwriter has a successful career going, but her aim in recording is to create something warm, not something that "would hit you over the head."

Her latest release, *Compostella*, has galactic sound — it's billed as "psychedelic folk," but in the space odyssey sense. The album, which mourns the death of her mother from breast cancer, takes its name from the Spanish word *compostela*, meaning, "field of stars." According to Jenn's website, the word "comes from the legend that the dust of the pilgrims who walk the El Camino, make up the stars that form the Milky Way."

Compostella is also a place in Spain, where Jenn visited in 2012 after her mother's passing. After travelling to Spain, she moved to Lake Echo, east of Halifax with her husband, **Daniel Ledwell**. The album was written in a trailer she calls her "writing cave" in the back of this property. Ledwell is also a multi-instrumentalist—he plays various instruments on both the album and will tour with her—and produced the album. This is the third album in the couple's collaboration, in which her sound has mellowed and become more complex.

The album features guests like Ron Sexsmith, Buck 65, Sarah Harmer and Rose Cousins and critics have agreed that this one knocks it out of the park. But not over the head. JS

jenngrant.com



JENNY LEWIS

United States

Jenny Lewis is the daughter of a professional singer and harmonica player, who had their own Vegas lounge act. Jenny came to the public forefront as a teen actress. She appeared on dozens of TV shows and movies, including *The Golden Girls, Roseanne* and *Pleasantville*. She was successful enough to support her now divorced mother and her sister, but she quickly got tired of the 'best friend' role.

Through acting, she became friends and romantically involved with another child actor, Blake Sennet. Together they formed Rilo Kiley, the celebrated indie pop band that was connected musically and geographically through the Laurel Canyon sound to The Postal Service and Conor Oberst. Jenny was supposed to be only a back up singer in Rilo Kiley, but she stood her ground and wouldn't join the band unless she was one of the lead singers.

Because of her voice, simultaneously seductive and inyour-face rock, Jenny became the focal point of the band and developed a well-deserved reputation as an indie goddess. After recording and then touring with The Postal Service, Lewis gained the confidence to write songs on her own, recording her first solo record, *Rabbit Fur Coat*. It was produced by Oberst and was named one of the best records of 2006 by many critics. Rilo Kiley still performed and recorded, but Jenny released her second solo effort, *Acid Tongue* in 2008.

With the death of her father and the breakup of Rilo Kiley, she took five years to record her third album *Voyager*, a very welcome release. "I'm happy to see her making records," musician Beck told the New York Times. "I just feel like music needs her. It needs someone doing what she's doing." WA

jennylewis.com

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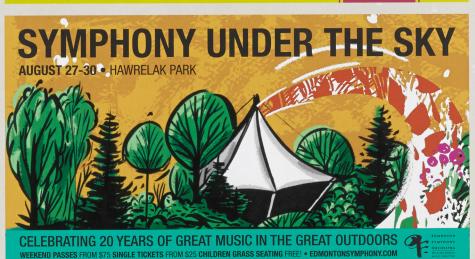
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JERRY DOUGLAS PRESENTS THE EARLS OF LEICESTER

United States

The name is perhaps one the worst bluegrass puns ever made, but the lineup and the material are seriously in the highest calibre of this style of music.

The band, which received a 2015 Grammy nomination for their debut, self-titled album, focuses exclusively on the music of Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys in their heyday between 1954 and 1965. Lester and Earl (hence the name of the band) were famous for the standard, Foggy Mountain Breakdown, a rare bluegrass Top 10 hit, as well as the Ballad of Jed Clampett. They had dozens more influential tunes in the bluegrass world and Scruggs revolutionized the art of banjo playing, creating what are still called three-fingered "Scruggs rolls."

Jerry Douglas put this all-star band together. One of the top resophonic guitar players in the world, Jerry is known for his work with Alison Krauss and has been on hundreds of albums, as well as fronting his own bands, some of which veered towards rock music.

"There's so many young bluegrass bands now that don't really know about Flatt and Scruggs. They know about Alison Krauss, Nickel Creek and Yonder Mountain [String Band], bands like that, but they don't hear where all of that stuff came from and the real impetus and inspiration for what we play, where it came from. I thought it was a good time to re-apply that coat of paint again."

Some folks call traditional bluegrass simple music, but as Jerry says, it's really hard to play it right. And he has sure picked the right pickers to pay tribute to Flatt and Scruggs, including **Johnny Warren** on fiddle, **Charlie Cushman** on banjo, **Barry Bales** on bass and **Shawn Camp** on guitar, all of whom gather around one microphone when they perform. MS

jerrydouglas.com



JOHN SMITH

England

Don't be fooled by the unassuming nature of **John Smith**'s name. Or by the fact that his performances may only feature the man, his guitar and his voice. This is no ordinary singer/songwriter sitting on the stage, thumping his foot to the rhythm of the song. There's a purity about John, a veracity in his gravel-toned voice, a voice that can also fly high and clear, a naturalness in his dexterous quitar playing.

Born in Devon on the south coast of England, John has four self-released albums: *The Fox and the Monk* (2006), *Map Or Direction* (2009), *Eavesdropping* (2011) and *Great Lakes* (2013). He made his way in music the hard way—on the road, touring the lands of the United Kingdom, crossing the channel into the continent and across the Great Pond into North America, playing coffee shops, bars, pubs, house concerts, clubs and festivals. He has headlined his own tours or shared the stage with others, opening for the likes of David Gray, Iron and Wine, the late John Martyn, Gil Scott-Heron and many others.

He spends so much time on tour that he has no fixed address, listing his present hometown as Motorway Services, UK. Josh Homme of Queens of the Stone Age and Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam are huge fans of John Smith, along with many others, be they famous or not.

"I believe in John Smith," Kelly Joe Phelps noted. "His motivations are pure, his vision is straight, his music is honest and true." WA

johnsmithjohnsmith.com



LAURA MARLING

England

Laura Marling is barely 25, yet she has a long history as one of Britain's most revered folksingers. With a voice that night be described as a cross between Judy Collins and Joni Mitchell and a knack for writing sensitive introspective lyrics reminiscent of Nick Drake, Laura has earned huge respect.

Born in Berkshire, she grew up around folk music. Her father ran a recording studio that specialized in the genre. She left home at the age of 16, going to live with her two older sisters near London. She became a founding member of Noah and the Whale which she left before the band released its first album in 2008.

She toured with Jamie T and other musicians and performed in the first Underage Festival in August 2007 at Victoria Park, East London. In 2008 she and a sister appeared on Russell Brand's Radio 2 show. Her career as a solo artist started taking off that year, when her first album, Alas I Cannot Swim, was released in February 2008. She has since released four other albums, the latest being Short Movie.

She has also dabbled in film, including the short, *Woman Driver*, for which she won the best actress award in the British 72-Hour National Film Challenge

For a young millenial, Laura values historical knowledge, and has been inspired by writers like Canadian icon Robertson Davies. "Quite a lot of my life is spent trying to figure out why I always want to go backwards—when the majority of the world seems to want to build more construction on top of the construction," she wrote in a guest column for *The Atlantic*.

Her live concerts earn piles of rave reviews, with *The Guardian* describing her work as "tough, tender and all points in between." MP

lauramarling.com



LE VENT DU NORD

Québec

Québec has one of the most vibrant music scenes in North America and **Le Vent du Nord** is one of the contemporary driving forces of this great tradition. Borrowing musically from Brittany, Scotland and Ireland, this francophone quartet adds Québécois twists such as call-and-response vocals and foot tapping. With infectious rhythms, seamless three and four-part harmonies, Le Vent du Nord fills audiences with a large dose of joie de vivre.

Formed in 2002, the band has promoted the culture of Québec around the world, touring widely, collaborating with a wide range of artists from The Chieftains to Harry Manx. They recently wrote a piece, "Tromper le Temps," which has been performed by symphony orchestras in Portland, Québec and Victoria. They have won numerous awards, including the Grand Prix du Disque Charles Cos, two Junos and the artist of the year for the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

Not surprisingly, reviewers across the globe have praised the band. "Le Vent du Nord are the genuine article: a vibrant, big-hearted slice of Québec, happy banter and all. It would be a stony-hearted listener indeed who wasn't eventually charmed by Le Vent du Nord," says *The Scottish Herald*. And the *Syracuse News* says: "... if you've never seen them, words won't do them justice. Le Vent du Nord is one of the best bands touring today, no matter your musical taste."

The band was founded by **Nicholas Boulerice**, who travelled to Ireland and France to learn the hurdy-gurdy, and **Olivier Demers**, who drives the band through his hot fiddle playing and foot-tapping. **Simon Beaudry**, joined in 2004 on vocal, guitar, and bouzouki. **Réjean Brunet** specializes in button accordion and joined the group in 2007. MP

leventdunord.com



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LEO BUD WELCH

United States

Despite picking up his first guitar at the age of 13—one belonging to his older cousin, which was furtively borrowed while he was away at work—**Leo Bud Welch** took his time in releasing his first album. Sixty-eight years to be exact. "A lot of 'em ask me why did I wait until I was 81 years-old," says Leo. "I told 'em, 'Sometimes it's better to wait than to be too fast and go ahead on.""

The wait certainly wasn't due to a lack of talent. By age 15, Leo was playing the blues publicly and earning the praise of bluesmen many years his senior. He was even offered an audition by B.B. King, but couldn't afford the trip from his home in Sabougla, Mississippi to Memphis.

He played the blues until the mid-'70s, before switching over to playing almost exclusively gospel music in the local Missionary Baptist Church and in a band, The Sabougla Voices, with his sister and sister-in-law. He earned a living as a logger in North Mississippi for 35 years, playing guitar only for friends and family.

His unique talent, born of a lifetime spent straddling the line between the Mississippi blues and gospel finally came to the attention of the wider world when Fat Possum Records released Leo's first album, Sabougla Voices, in 2014. And Leo hasn't stopped since. Boarding his first plane at age 81, he toured extensively in North America and Europe and had a documentary filmed about his life.

In the spring of this year, Leo, who mines the feel of old country blues, released his second album, *I Don't Prefer No Blues*, two days after celebrating his 83rd birthday. "I don't have to do nothin' but ride," Leo says, "and fingers do the walkin', strings do the talkin'." SH

leobudwelch.com



LES HAY BABIES

New Brunswick

The Acadian trio **Les Hay Babies** are not easy to pigeonhole. They channel Patsy Cline with a bluegrass twang, sing in Acadian French and carry themselves in the off-kilter, true-to-yourself style of a bunch of young k.d. langs. Each of the three women in the band—**Julie Aubé** (banjo), **Katrine Noël** (ukulele) and **Vivianne Roy** (guitar)—grew up in a small Acadian village in New Brunswick. And each independently won "l'Accro de la chanson," a regional music award, in 2009 and 2010.

Realizing the potential for synergy, the three decided to start playing together shortly afterwards. In 2012, they released a six-song bilingual EP, Folio. They toured this album successfully, particularly in Europe where they were an instant hit, and won the 2013 Francouvertes, a new artist prize given out in Montreal's Canadian Music Festival.

Mon Homesick Heart, Les Hay Babies' sophomore effort, brought in some bigger guns. Produced and recorded by François Lafontaine and Mathieu Parisien, respectively, the men behind Québec's Karkwa and Paris's Arthur H, it is almost entirely in French.

Les Hay Babies also borrowed some musicians for the effort—Joe Grass from Patrick Watson and Mico Roy from Les Hôtesses d'Hilaire on guitar, the drums of José Major (from Marie-Pierre Arthur), and the Patrick Watson bassist Mishka Stein.

The result is an album of compelling, quirky bluegrass rock—the influence of the Patrick Watson band musicians is clear—with ditties that get glued into your mind. Les Hay Babies are one of those bands you can boast about discovering at the Folkfest. JS

leshaybabies.com



LETTS England

Christian Letts is going to be one busy performer at this year's Folkfest, doing a solo project appearing under his last name as well as performing with Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros.

Letts has been a member of the Zeros for several years as a guitarist, singer and songwriter, but he also had solo aspirations. He met Marcus Mumford during a tour when the Zeros were opening for Mumford and Sons. Letts and Mumford hit it off personally and musically, and Letts asked him to produce his first solo album, *Hold Fast*. Mumford was surprised by the invitation, but as he told *Rolling Stone*, he had always been involved in the production of his band's recordings. "It just felt like being in the studio with your friends, which we do all the time," Mumford says. Letts describes the experience as being surrounded by "some of the most beautiful souls I have ever known.".

Letts is also a painter and a sculptor. His work in those media, as well as his music, express a common theme of overcoming darkness, and his visual art has appeared in galleries across the United States. He also has a lifelong fascination with the father of gypsy jazz, Django Reinhardt, and sports a tattoo with the chords of one of Reinhardt's best-known pieces, *Minor Swing*. Get close to the stage and you might see the chord progression, Dm Am E7. MP

communitymusic.com/artists/letts



LORD HURON

United States

Even though **Lord Huron** is based in Los Angeles, and its founder studied in New York and France, the lake from which the band takes its name plays a key role in its development and in the songs. There's an openness to Lord Huron's sound, which draws a parallel to the longing of Texas novelist Larry McMurtry for bigger spaces,

It's not surprising since band founder and songwriter **Ben Schneider** grew up in Okemos, Michigan, only an hour or so drive from Lake Huron. During summer holidays as a kid, Ben's family visited Lake Huron often, camping by its shores. He worked on his guitar chops and singing around the campfire, setting the stage for the music to come. Following a stint in college in France and time in New York, Ben first began recording as a solo artist, releasing a couple of EPs under the moniker of Lord Huron.

But over time, band members needed to be added— **Mike Barry, Miguel Briseno** and **Tom Renaud**—to translate the sound to live shows, which included spots at Coachella, Lollapalooza and the Newport Folk Festival.

When it comes to recording, Ben Schneider isn't satisfied with just releasing albums. The first full Lord Huron effort, Lonesome Dreams, came with a series of connected videos, telling a story of the songs through film. Their more recent album, Strange Days, also comes with another video series plus a comic book, telling some of the back story behind the music.

"Ben Schneider's soaring folk-rock project conjures a life unfettered and outside of time," wrote *Rolling Stone*. "Roads and rivers wind, a man wanders beneath trees or imagines sitting by a lake for a thousand years." WA

strangetrails.com



LUCIUS

3

United States

Called the "best band you may not have heard yet," by Rolling Stone, Lucius has a fresh sound that can best be described as a unique blend of Americana folk, signature '60s girl group pop and very percussive rock. The Brooklyn-based indie quintet's impeccable harmonies, sophisticated vocal arrangements and mod fashion style truly sets them apart.

Fronted by Jess Wolfe and Holly Laessig, the band started when the two women were attending the prestigious Berklee School of Music. After graduation, they moved to Brooklyn, taking up residence in an old Victorian house that had 60 years earlier been a music school and recording studio. Artistically inspired by their new surroundings, the duo penned most of their first recording, Songs from the Bromley House (2009), on the former studio's 1921 Steinway Piano. Centered around their powerful voices and compelling song writing, they look back on the album's compositions "as pieces of a whole biographical ode to the house and to the experiences they shared there."

During this time they also began to collaborate with their future bandmates **Peter Lalish**, **Andrew Burri** and **Dan Molad**, who later became Jess's husband. Coming together as a five-piece paired the synchronous vocals of Jess and Holly—who also play synthesizer and keyboards—with the solid musicianship of the other members who collectively handle the production, percussion and guitars.

The band's 2012 self-titled EP is described as a "rhythm-driven, intricate pop-minded production." Their full length follow-up, *Wilderwoman* (2013), issued on the indie label Mom + Pop Music, is described by the popular West Coast music blog *NBC SoundDiego* as "a beautifully crafted and thoughtful recital of personal narratives woven delicately but purposefully into lyrically and instrumentally provoking anecdotes." RK

ilovelucius.com



LYNCHED

Ireland

At first listen, **Lynched** sounds like a fine Irish traditional band, with uilleann pipes, concertina, Russian accordion, fiddle, guitar and tight vocal harmonies. But they aren't singing about the romantic Emerald Isle depicted on tourism posters. Instead, the rebellious spirit of punk underlies their music: their lyrics depict rampant unemployment, social misery and economic crisis that annually forces up to 80,000 young Irish to emigrate.

Indeed, their description of the Irish in the song "Cold Old Fire" is that "we always sing even when we're losing. 'Cause Dublin's drone is hard enough, especially when you're down and you're boozing." That punk spirit was behind the formation of the band over a decade ago, originally as a duo with **lan Lynch** and his brother **Darragh** and with a psychedelic punk feel to the music.

But eventually they rediscovered Irish traditional music and expanded the band to include **Cormac Mac Diarmada** and **Radie Peat**. They also added Dublin music-hall ditties and street-songs, traditional Irish dance tunes and classic ballads from the Traveller tradition to their repertoire. As head songwriter lan Lynch says, "... I eventually thought that there's more punk in folk than punk itself... It has always seemed to me that anonymously composed songs passed down by generations, not for money or fame, but out of a pure resonance for what the song was expressing, were truly the 'voice of the people.' "

Darragh agrees, saying, "Punk and folk are generally coming from the same place as far as I'm concerned —songs about peoples' lives, usually learned and performed in a very DIY, community setting—just with different aesthetics." ER

lynchedmusic.com



MAKANA

United States/Hawaii

Not only is **Makana** a master of the Hawaiian slack key guitar, but he is also an agent of gentle subversion.

Makana was invited to perform for President Barack Obama and other dignitaries at the 2013 APEC world leaders' conference in Honolulu. He used the opportunity to make a subliminal protest, singing a century-old protest song in Hawaiian, and then singing his own anthem, "We Are the Many," which has lyrics like "You enforce your monopolies with guns/While sacrificing our daughters and sons." Under his suit jacket he wore a T-shirt saying: "Occupy With Aloha."

As an activist, Makana wants his music to be socially relevant. As a musician, he is unique. Two of his albums have been nominated for Grammys and his guitar playing can be heard throughout George Clooney's Oscar-winning film, *The Descendants*. He has performed on-stage with the likes of Jason Mraz, Jack Johnson, and Gotye, and opened for such legends as Sting and Elvis Costello. In 2012 he won the Na Hoku Ki Ho'alu Legacy Award—one of Hawaii's highest musical honours.

Born **Matthew Swalinkavich**, he started playing guitar at the age of 11 and studied under slack key masters Bobby Moderow Jr. and Uncle Sonny Chillingworth. Slack key means the guitar is tuned down to an open chord, so both chord and melody can be played at the same time, making it sound like two guitars. He was so talented that at the age of 14 he was given the name Makana, which means "gift given freely."

He has made this style his own by adding modern touches of rock, bluegrass and blues—a combination that has become known as his signature, "Slack Rock." His uptempo guitar rhythms and clear singing voice bring this tradition alive and draw the listener into his world. EMR



MATT ANDERSEN

New Brunswick

From a town of only 1,800 people, blues man **Matt Andersen** has made his impact on the global music world. Hailing from Perth-Andover, New Brunswick, Matt grew up in a musical family, jamming with his cousins and friends alike.

His East Coast roots are imprinted on his music, which is narrative-driven, telling stories about the happiness and hardships of working class lives. His songs often focus on local issues, as illustrated most clearly on his 2011 album, *Coal Mining Blues*.

He caught onto the blues early, first listening to Eric Clapton and then going deeper to the well to the likes of Sonny Terry and Albert King. Getting to the roots of blues, his own sound has earned him comparisons to the late blues icon, B.B. King. Authentic and captivating, his voice is deep and rich with a rousing trademark howl. His music has a maturity and depth expected of one much older, but speaks to the fact that he began singing and playing guitar at the early age of 14.

One of the most hard-working musicians around, he plays over 200 shows a year and released eight full-length albums. His most recent, *Weightless*, came out in 2014, was the result of a writing collaboration with fellow East Coast musicians, Joel Plaskett and Dave Gunning. He has won many awards and accolades, including the Memphis International Blues Challenge—becoming the first Canadian to ever win the category for best duo/individual. He has also made regular appearances on Stuart McLean's Vinyl Café. EMR

stubbyfingers.ca

makanamusic.com

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THE MCCRARY SISTERS

United States

Nashville-based gospel group, **The McCrary Sisters**, came by their musical talents honestly. Daughters of late Reverend Samuel McCrary, a founding member of the legendary gospel quartet, The Fairfield Four, they grew up with music all around them. Their home was a revolving door of musicians and singing together came naturally to the sisters.

From a family of eight children, the siblings worked together over the years in varying combinations as The McCrarys, but in 2011 four sisters, **Ann, Regina, Alfreda,** and **Deborah**, reformed the group as The McCrary Sisters, releasing their first album, *Our Journey*, that same year. Of the four, Ann and Regina sang professionally for many years prior to the band formation, while Alfreda sang and preached at her local church and Deborah was a nurse.

Ann, the eldest of the sisters, began touring with her father at the early age of three. She was upset whenever her father would leave on tour, so her mother eventually sent her along with the band where she began joining them on stage. Regina toured with Bob Dylan for eight years in the late '70s, recording three albums with him, including singing back-up on "Gotta Serve Somebody." She has also worked with the likes of Stevie Wonder and Buddy Miller.

Influenced greatly by the songs of their father's group, The McCrarys sing many gospel standards. They also write some of their own music as well as cover contemporary artists like Bob Dylan and Gillian Welch. With beautiful and mesmerizing harmonies that only sisters could create, their deep, rich vocals are imbued with feeling and authenticity. Infectious rhythms and soulful vibrations fill their music. In 2013 they released their sophomore album, *All The Way*, and most recently released, *Let's Go*, in 2014. EMR

mccrarysisters.com



MIKE FARRIS

United States

Redemption. That's one word to describe **Mike Farris**'s lifetime and musical journey. Redemption of the body. Redemption of the spirit.

Born in Nashville, Tennessee, Farris was blessed with a soulful voice reminiscent of Al Green and Sam Cooke. Unfortunately, life dealt Mike many hard knocks. He battled demons as a teenager, almost dying of an overdose at the age of 21. That incident brought him back home to his father where he overcame his addiction by playing guitar and writing songs. From that he formed and fronted the seminal blues rock band, The Screaming Cheetah Wheelies, as well as singing for Double Trouble, Stevie Ray Vaughn's old band.

But the pressures of constant touring in bars brought Mike's battle with the demons back to the forefront. After the death of a friend in 2004, he turned to God to help find a path to sobriety. Solo albums were released, using his Stax-influenced voice to create a fusion of blue-eyed soul and gospel on releases like *Goodnight Sun, Salvation Lights, Sunday Night Shout* and *The Night*. He has shared a stage with the likes of Bruce Hornsby, Ricky Skaggs and Mavis Staples and won an Americana Award for Best New/Emerging Artist (despite his already long career).

The demons returned, but he battled them again, putting his heart and soul into his most recent album, *Shine for All the Lights*. Redemption for his struggles and his years of creation came in the form of a Grammy award for that album. It was not only the first for him but the first in history for the new category of Best Gospel Roots Album. "I've discovered that failing is a divine thing," Mike says. "It's part and parcel of being human. The important thing is to keep the faith and keep moving on and on." Amen to that. WA

mikefarrismusic.com



THE MILK CARTON KIDS

United States

For a band, rather a duo, that's been together for such a short time, **The Milk Carton Kids** have made quite an impact. Formed in 2011, **Kenneth Pattengale** and **Joey Ryan** have already released four albums, appeared on *The Conan O'Brien Show* and *Prairie Home Companion*; were featured in a Gus Van Zant movie starring Matt Damon; shared the stage with the likes of Joan Baez and Jack White in the concert movie that followed *Inside Llewyn Davis* and were nominated for a Grammy for the Best Folk Album in 2013.

Possibly it's the back-to-basics style of folk music that The Milk Carton Kids play that's attracted attention: two young guys with acoustic guitars. One sings lead, the other harmony. One plays rhythm guitar, the other is in charge of hot licks. It harkens back to Simon and Garfunkel or The Everly Brothers, two groups to whom The Milk Carton Kids have been compared. Maybe it's the famous between-songs dry humour which they spout during their concerts, humour that harkens back to the Smothers Brothers. Or perhaps it's just their trademark gig apparel of dark suits that has attracted so much attention.

Still, there's something more complex than what's on the surface, an intellectual sophistication to their simplicity. Because bands can hide a lot of things, project pseudoprofoundness in a wall of sound created by large numbers of musicians. But when things are simple, they can't. They're bare and exposed and the depths shine through. And their lyrics will grab you by the heartstrings, the melodies will take you to another place and you're not likely to hear better harmonies anywhere. Sure, there's only two of them, but the whole is a lot bigger than the sum of the parts. In this case, two is definitely enough. WA

themilkcartonkids.com



MONICA HELDAL

Norway

With a beautiful compelling voice and presence, **Monica Heldal** takes you willingly on a voyage through lovelorn folk, with occasional stops at the blues. Her debut album, *Boy from the North*, spent 21 weeks on the Top 40 charts in her native Norway and was released to rave reviews in the linited States in 2014.

Her voice might remind you of Gillian Welch or Norah Jones, but with a Nordic vibe. She backs up that voice with a sophisticated acoustic guitar style, intricate fingerpicking often played in open tuning to make a full bluesy sound. She can also play killer slide guitar.

The press describes her as a guitar virtuoso. Guitars have had an immense influence on Monica her whole life. Her parents and family play the guitar—guitars were always around the house. She was always eager to play and at 12 years old her parents gave her a guitar. By 16, she had written her song, "Silly Willy," which she still plays today.

Monica is an aficionado of the late Irish blues guitarist/songwriter Rory Gallagher. That led to her being invited to play the Rory Gallagher International Tribute Festival in Cork, his home town. *Baeble Music*, a New York-based music blog writes, "Her haunting voice, story telling lyrics, and killer guitar skills are quickly pushing her into the spotlight with effortless beauty, which comfortably places her in the same musical wheelhouse of Nick Drake, Jeff Buckley, and acoustic guitar stylings of Jimmy Page."

Now only 24, Monica has won a number of awards in her home country, including the Spellemannprisen, Norway's version of the Grammys. She has played all over Europe, including a recent gig at the Montreux Jazz Festival. ER

monicaheldal.com



NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHTSWEATS

United States

There are times when **Nathaniel Rateliff** is a stripped down performer, armed with a guitar, a hangdog style baritone and songs about the four Ls of the singer/songwriter: love, longing, loss and loneliness. And it was this Nathaniel Rateliff who caught the attention of the music world.

It happened after he moved from rural Missouri to Denver to be a missionary and to drive a truck. It was this Nathaniel who developed a dedicated following in Denver, was praised by *Spin Magazine* for his "massive alluring voice", dubbed a local folk hero by the *New York Times* and called a "must hear" by *Billboard* even before he had a record deal. And this Nathaniel did get a record deal, releasing albums including *Memory of Loss* on Rounder Records in the US and Decca in the UK. Nathaniel also performed his tunes with his band, The Wheel, and opened for a wide number of bands like Mumford and Sons, The Lumineers, Emmylou Harris and Deer Tick.

But there's another Nathaniel Rateliff that we'll be seeing this year. He's travelling with his new band, **The Nightsweats**, and as the name connotes, there's a lot more action in this group. Born of his desire to add another dimension to his world, and after listening to Sam and Dave, Otis Redding and The Band, The Nightsweats are more rocking, more R & B and soul. They even come with their own horn section plus a Hammond B-3 organ to fulfill the '60s soul sound Nathaniel was looking for. It might be time to bring some dancing shoes, because they have the word "sweat" in their name for a reason. WA

nathanielrateliff.com



OF MONSTERS AND MEN

Iceland

Even if you haven't heard of **Of Monsters and Men**, it's hard to possess functioning ears without having heard their smash hit "Little Talks." Taken from the Icelandic band's debut album, the song was four minutes and fifteen seconds of pure musical zeitgeist: sweet vocal harmonies, a ska-ish brass section and percussive shouts of "hey" throughout.

The trip from obscurity to ubiquity was fast: in 2009, Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir wanted accompaniment on her solo project, Songbird. She enlisted the support of Ragnar "Raggi" Pórhallsson (vocals and guitar), Brynjar Leifsson (guitar), Arnar Rósenkranz Hilmarsson (percussion). They renamed the project Of Monsters and Men. The ensemble shot to local prominence in 2010, when they entered—and won—Músíktilraunir, Iceland's annual battle of the bands. They then added bassist Kristján Páll Kristjánsson. Eventually trumpet player Ragnhildur Gunnarsdóttir joined them.

"Little Talks" was recorded by KEXP radio in Seattle in 2010 during a living room session for Icelandic Airwaves' music festival. While the band was working on My Head is a Monster, their debut album in Iceland, "Little Talks" started being played on American radio. . After the release of the album, in September 2011, "Little Talks" shot to the top of the charts in Iceland and quickly became an international hit as well.

My Head is a Monster was the best Icelandic album debut on Billboard charts ever — 55,000 albums sold in the first week alone. It debuted at No. 6, beating out the old record held by (you guessed it) Björk's Volta.

In June, Of Monsters and Men released their second album, *Beneath the Skin*. With less brass and more drums, the album is, in some ways, a bit of a departure. But the persistent vocals and compelling melodies satisfy aficionados of the band's first effort. JS

ofmonstersandmen.com



OLD MAN LUEDECKE

Nova Scotia

As his stage moniker would suggest, the music of **Old Man Luedecke** is steeped in a long tradition, imbued with an energy and natural talent for storytelling reminiscent of giants like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. While he's younger than his name would suggest, he has earned accolades for his ability to mesmerize crowds with his clawhammer banjo playing style, rich melodies, quick wit and a knack for narrative-filled songs evocative of a bygone era, but with a contemporary twist all his own (like the tongue-in-cheek story of booze-fuelled-cravings of "A&W").

Born in Toronto and now calling Chester, Nova Scotia home, he has criss-crossed Canada and toured the world, found love with his wife Teresa, and become the father of twin girls. Along the way, he has found an appreciation for the simple and truly important things in life, a sometimes bittersweet hopefulness that shines through in his songwriting. "I am a prisoner for my appreciation for language; language that moves me is language that is unusual," he says. "I feel like it's an important thing I can contribute to songwriting."

His storyteller's heart and his personal banjo-driven mix of bluegrass, folk, and pop has garnered no shortage of attention. He won his first Juno in 2009, getting the nod for traditional folk album of the year for *Proof of Love*, and won again two years later for its follow-up, *My Hands Are on Fire and Other Love Songs. Tender is the Night*, his much-acclaimed, Nashville-recorded 2012 album, earned him another Juno nomination, as well as folk album of the year from Music Nova Scotia. "Beneath the sheer delight that spills from Luedecke's upbeat banjo licks lurks more of the songwriter's superb lyricism, filled with vulnerability and vibrant language," raves *Exclaim magazine*. SH

oldmanluedecke.ca



THE ONCE

Newfoundland

Once upon a time, **Geraldine Hollett**, **Andrew Dale** and **Phil Churchill** started singing around a kitchen table and realized they had something very special. Their chemistry was so immediate—a "light-bulb moment" according to Andrew—that it led them to keep singing and making music together, and thus **The Once** was born. The group remains grounded in its essential roots: sophisticated vocal arrangements and spirited acoustic instrumentation that includes guitar, banjo and mandolin.

Although the band's name derives from an old Newfoundland expression that means "right away" or "imminently," The Once's evolution was gradual. In 2009 they made their first album and the band became their main, full-time concern. Phil charts their changes through their CD releases: "The first one was for friends and family, the second for fans, and now the new one (*Departures*) is for new people."

The band is influenced by Newfoundland's Celtic-inspired traditional music, but they draw upon a range of influences from Leonard Cohen to Elvis Presley, and even from Queen. *Departures* represents The Once's most honest and personal effort to date, with songs ranging from Andrew's admittedly sappy love song to his fiancée, "You Lead I Will Follow," to "The Town Where You Lived," a tune that Phil wrote for his father.

Since their first album, The Once have collected a trio of Canadian Folk Music Awards, been named Newfoundland & Labrador Art Council's Artist of the Year, and earned a Juno nomination for best roots/traditional album. For the past year they have been on a world tour, opening for Passenger, beginning in the United States, before heading to Europe, Australia and Asia. Many new fans will discover the joyous, harmony-rich acoustic music that have made them such favourites in their homeland. ER

theonce.ca

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OSCAR LOPEZ

Alberta

Chile's loss has been a huge gain for Calgary's musical tapestry. Born in Santiago, Chile, **Oscar Lopez**, as a budding musician in his 20s, was forced to leave his home in 1979 by the repression of the regime of Augusto Pinochet. He came to Canada, initially to Winnipeg where his sister lived, and eventually to Calgary.

In Canada he dedicated himself to mastering the guitar and building his musical career. Releasing his debut album, *Hola*, in 1989. Oscar made four albums of his own fiery instrumental "new flamenco" on the Narada worldmusic label before, as his friend James Keelaghan jokes, the short-lived "Celtino craze of 1997" took off.

Oscar became popular on the folk circuit, hooking up with Keelaghan to form Los Compadres. It was a match made in heaven: Keelaghan admired Oscar not just for his guitar heroics, but for his uncanny gift for melody and chord structure, while Keelaghan's songs told many of Canada's important stories. They released two popular, critically praised albums. But severe depression hit Oscar in the fall of 2001, and he took a long hiatus from performing, returning in 2004 to play with Spirit of the West.

Restored to health, with a happy personal life that has seen the birth of a son, Oscar is playing better than ever. He also joined fellow guitarists Pavlo and Rik Emmett to record *Trifecta* and tour extensively in North America, wowing audiences with their rich and energetic music and his free spirit and guitar artistry. Oscar is a two-time Juno Award winner and multi-nominee. ER

oscar-lopez.myshopify.com



OYSTERBAND

England/Wales/Scotland

It's been nearly four decades since **Oysterband** began performing its unique blend of traditional folk, rock and a touch of punk, but the band is as strong a force in British music as it has ever been.

The band is still relentlessly touring, and their new album, *Diamonds of the Water*, has received a tidal wave of critical acclaim. "Revamped and revitalized Oysterband produced their best CD in years ... songwriting, playing and arranging out of the top drawer," says *Maverick* magazine. "You know this will be one of the Oysterband's best-loved albums," says *fRoots*.

Oysterband began in the Canterbury area in the late '70s as the Oyster Ceilidh Band, purely a dance band. The name has changed over the years, as has the sound, but they are still deeply rooted in traditional British folk music. In the '80s they toured Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and North America. With funding from the British Council they toured Morocco, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia. By the late '90s they were shocked to find they were considered leaders of a new English style roots/rock. To this date they have toured 35 countries and won five BBC Folk Awards.

Band founders are John Jones on vocals and melodeon, Alan Prosser on guitar and vocals and lan Telfer on violin, keyboard, concertina and vocals. Dil Davis on drums joined the band in 2007. They recently added Al Scott on bass, mandolin and vocals and Adrian Oxall on cello and vocals.

Their reunion album with June Tabor, *Ragged Kingdom*, was received in 2011 with remarkable success which they toured through 2012 and 2013. MP

oysterband.co.uk



REUBEN AND THE DARK

Alberta

. Forget the Flames. These days, Calgary's most promising export is **Reuben and the Dark** .

Led by **Reuben Bullock**, the five-piece band of multiinstrumentalists features haunting lyrics and harmonies and is making great strides in the music business. They worked through Alberta's independent music scene to be signed by Arts and Crafts label in 2011. They toured North America last year and this summer they are performing at festivals throughout Canada, followed by the Austin City Limits Festival this fall.

As Calgary's *Fast Forward* magazine said, "Bullock's voice is intimate and immediate, note-perfect to deliver his testaments and make them resonate. He somehow manages to evoke some of the greatest folk singers without once sounding imitative."

Rueben is the son of a travelling preacher, but he and his brother rebelled against the religious life moving into a wilder one from which he feels lucky to have survived. His brushes with death include escaping the tsunami in Thailand in 2004 when for days his family believed he had been washed away from the beach. Through the years Reuben kept notebooks of dark and chilling poems and lyrics.

Their debut album has attracted some top producers, including Chris Hayden, the drummer for Florence & the Machine, who met Reuben in Mexico. The two started conjuring projects together and Hayden came to Calgary to work on the first disc. Production also came from Stephen Kozmeniuk, known for his work with Madonna, and it was mixed by Jim Abbiss, who also worked with the Arctic Monkeys and Adele. The result is *Funeral Sky*, which was released in May. MP

reubenandthedark.com







RICHARD THOMPSON

England

Not many performers on Folkfest stages have been members of the Order of the British Empire. **Richard Thompson** is one of the few, an artist whose work and career have resulted in the highest honours being conferred upon him. The Queen herself bestowed the OBE on him at Buckingham Palace in 2011 for services to music and in the same year he received an honorary doctorate from the University at Aberdeen for his exceptional and distinctive contribution to contemporary music.

He's a songwriter who can be pithy, or move you to tears, sometimes in the same song: just take a listen to "1952 Vincent Black Lightning." His body of work includes over 40 albums, Grammy nominations and numerous soundtracks, and many covers of his songs by the likes of Robert Plant, Elvis Costello, REM, Bonnie Raitt, Los Lobos, David Byrne and Don Henley.

Then there is his unique and fluid guitar playing on both acoustic or electric instruments. His combination of aggressive flatpicking and intricate fingerpicking *at the same time* has resulted in *Rolling Stone* naming him one of the greatest guitarists of all time. His playing and songs have a strong Celtic feel, but he also incorporates influences such as Django Reinhardt, Fats Waller, Les Paul, Jimmy Shand and Buddy Holly.

He co-founded Fairport Convention in 1967, the band that virtually invented British folk rock. He left the band in 1971, went solo, did session work, collaborated with such singers as Sandy Denny, entered a decade-long musical and personal relationship with then-wife Linda Thompson and went on to over 30 years as a highly successful solo artist.

As *Rolling Stone* says: "Richard Thompson is the greatest guitarist in British folk rock — and that's only one of the genres he has mastered." ER

richardthompson-music.com



ROSS AINSLIE AND JARLATH HENDERSON

Scotland/Ireland

Anyone with a longing to hear the pipes calling, whether Scottish or Irish, should catch **Ross Ainslie** and **Jarlath Henderson**. This duo, who first met in 2003 at a piping festival in Ireland, performs a groundbreaking blend of the two yery different traditions.

Ross is from Perth, Scotland and a master of the bagpipes and whistle. Jarlath grew up in County Tyrone, Ireland and was a three time All-Ireland Champion of the uilleann pipes by the age of 19. That year he became the first Irish musician to win BBC's Young Folk Musician of the Year.

Together they created an act bursting with energy, blending Scottish and Irish traditions. Their 2008 debut album, *Partners in Crime*, was the first recording of this kind. They released the album *Airfix* in 2013.

As if it was not challenging enough to be a master musician, Jarlath also completed his degree in medicine in Aberdeen, playing music when he had the time to spare. Ross joined Salsa Celtica in 2005 which played with an improvised jazz and salsa style, and in 2006 he was part of India Alba, made up of two Indian classical musicians and two Scottish ones. In 2009 Ross was a founding member of the Treacherous Orchestra, an 11 piece rock/celtic group which plays mainly original tunes, including ones written by Ross. These widely varying experiences are evident in his current writing.

Nominated as Best Duo by BBC Radio 2 in 2014, they are always pushing musical boundaries with a blend of new original and traditional material. MP

rossandjarlath.com

SCHOOL OF SONG

Alberta



The Doll Sisters

A pair of real-life sisters from Rocky Mountain House, the **Doll Sisters** are the duo of **Jenna Leigh** and **Shelby Doll**. The two are multi-instrumentalists — they play guitar, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, bodhrán — and express their love of Celtic Americana through their original compositions. They count Alison Krauss, Heart's Ann and Nancy Wilson and The Civil Wars as influences. They'll be playing songs off their sophomore record, *Off the Edge of the Earth*.

dollsisters.com

Ella Coyes

A self-described music and orange pekoe addict, **Ella Coyes** has a "judicious vocal tone and uncommon vibrato."
A singer-songwriter who grew up on Alberta's most beautiful prairie region, she enjoys writing songs about



the emotions and struggles of humanity. Now based in Edmonton, she has been working for the past several years to establish a name for herself. She is also working on her debut EP.

ellacoyes.bandcamp.com



Erin Kay and Ken Stead

Originally from Williams Lake, BC, **Erin Kay** is a tour de force in Edmonton's music scene. Crafting songs about

love, loss, heartbreak and hope, she invites comparisons to Joni Mitchell and Emmylou Harris. Her voice has been likened to "honey and tabasco, swirled in a cloud of smoke."

She will be joined onstage by Sherwood Park singer songwriter **Ken Stead**. Ken is a lifelong musician — his musical debut was at age 9, starring alongside Donny Osmond in a production of *Joseph's Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Now he enjoys telling stories of internet dating, social anxiety, square dancing and of course, cheesy love.

erinkaymusic.com

kenstead.com

Mohsin Zaman Mohsin Zaman says he is an "old hand at being a newcomer" — having lived in both the Middle East and Canada, Mohsin draws inspiration from his journeys.



His songs embody the diversity of "from Dubai's bustling streets to the wintery turf of Edmonton" and chart the human encounters that are common to all of us. With his music, and his album Waking Up, he aims to inspire.

mohsinzaman.bandcamp.com



Post Script

Post Script features close harmonies, memorable melodies and songs written from the heart — in both official languages. The trio of Steph Blais, Paul Cournoyer and Brayden Treble has already made a name for itself far from Edmonton. Try Iceland, where they were Alberta ambassadors at the Winter Lights Festival. Or when they were guests on the national French language radio show, Ballade à Toronto. Or playing just before Baka Beyond at the Canmore Folk Festival. With a national tour in the planning, the future is bright for this young trio, no matter what language they sing in.

postscriptmusic.com



SI KAHN United States

In the spirit of Woody Guthrie and Pete Seeger, **Si Kahn** gives a voice to the voiceless and uses his music to make the world a better—and more just—place.

He has recorded 18 albums and produced four musicals, but much of his life has been dedicated to community organizing and activism. He has spent 50 years as a rabble rouser, starting with the civil rights movement of the 1960s, which included coaching the first racially integrated Little League baseball team in Géorgia. He worked with immigrants, mine and textile workers, and founded Grassroots Leadership, which has worked to oppose privatization of institutions such as prisons. In recent years he has taken up the defence of Alaska's pristine Bristol Bay from a proposed gold and copper mine.

Not surprisingly, his music has been influenced by the struggles he has witnessed, and many of his songs have become part of the oral tradition. Even if you haven't heard of Si Kahn, you're likely to have heard songs such as "Aragon Mill," with its chorus of "weave and spin." Si's body of work includes an album of labour songs with Pete Seeger, a longtime friend and colleague.

His songs have been translated into at least six languages, and have been recorded by numerous performers, including Dick Gaughan, Patrick Street and Hazel Dickens. He has even put to music two classic children's books, *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*.

Among the many tributes to Si, Rosanne Cash's stands out: "His powerful impulse to service, combined with deep compassion, is a force of nature. I put Si Kahn in the same category as Woody Guthrie, as Pete Seeger, and in a strange way, as my dad, who shared his righteous sense of humanity and his love of the 'meek,' who he truly believed would 'inherit the earth.'" MS

sikahn.com



SINÉAD O'CONNOR

Ireland

Sinéad O'Connor is an icon. For her politics, her power, her message, that signature shaved head and above all, for her music. Born in the Dublin area, Sinéad had success very early in her career, beginning in 1984 as the lead singer for the band, Ton Ton Macoute. The music industry soon took notice. By 1986, at the age of 20, Sinéad was given the reigns to self-produce her first album, *The Lion and the Cobra*, which went gold and earned her a Grammy nomination.

Her second album, I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got, launched her to international fame four years later with her version of Prince's, "Nothing Compares 2 U." Her albums released over the years highlighted her experimentation with various musical styles from "sexed-up" traditional Irish folk songs to reggae to a return on her latest album, I'm Not Bossy, I'm the Boss, of her well-known style of "celt-crossed blues rock." That album has been described as "passionate and direct, yet with an overarching fragility; her voice is a weapon, as powerful as it is tender."

Sinéad is almost as famous for her politics as her music. A passionate advocate for abused children, she sparked international outcry in 1992 when she tore up a photograph of Pope John Paul II on *Saturday Night Live* in protest against the sexual abuse of children in the Catholic Church. Over the years she announced her support of the I.R.A., boycotted the Grammy Awards for being too commercial and was ordained as a priest in a dissident Catholic order.

Mother of four children, and soon to be a grandmother, Sinéad vows to keep the shaved head look. "I don't feel like myself unless I have my hair shaved. So even when I'm an old lady, I'm going to (shave) it." EMR

sineadoconnor.com



THE SLOCAN RAMBLERS

Ontario

Every few years a new generation of bluegrass players seems to be spawned from the hipster streets of Toronto. Enter **The Slocan Ramblers**, one of the hottest young bluegrass bands to emerge in the past decade from the Centre of the Universe.

They started to attract attention about five years ago, playing casual gigs and then a regular spot at the Cloak and Dagger, which led to appearances that would turn even more heads, including Mariposa Folk Festival. Currently they have a touring schedule that's exhausting even to read, taking them from Dawson City to Florida.

Their high energy is earning the Ramblers attention far beyond the usual bluegrass fan base and creating new fans of this genre of music. Band members include **Frank Evans** on banjo, **Adrian Gross** on mandolin, **Darryl Poulsen** on guitar and **Alastair Whitehead** on standup bass. Along the way they have received mentorship from some of Toronto's top acoustic musicians, including Chris Coole and Andrew Collins, resulting in some of the hottest instrumental pickin' and sweetest vocal harmonies you'll hear anywhere.

The accolades have been pouring in since the release of their first disc, Shaking Down the Acorns, in 2013. "This is a tight-knit ensemble with a lot of drive, yet with something of a tantalizing 'rough edge' to their sound," says Sing Out! Magazine. "It's hard to single any of them out—they all play so darned smooth and make it sound so easy," says Penguin Eggs. Ramblers fans even include Don Cherry, who heard their version of the hymn "Abide with Me" and commented: "It is the best. It gives you the chills, I'll tell you that."

With their sophomore disc, *Coffee Creek*, released this summer, the rise of the Ramblers into the bluegrass stratosphere will no doubt continue. MS

slocanramblers.com



TINARIWEN

Mali

Life for the nomadic Tuareg people of the Sahara desert is a struggle against both the harsh natural elements and the harsh politics that have plagued their region. The members of the Malian band **Tinariwen** have been forced to be strong, not only from living in the desert but to continue in the face of having their music banned by their government. Tinariwen refers to nation-building, but it's a time of warfare between the Tuareg people, the Malian government and Islamic insurgents.

Political instability has driven the band to record outside the Sahara for the first time in the three decades since the band started in Libya. They landed in the high Joshua Tree desert in southern California. "This is the first time we are recording out of Africa and it has to be in a desert," says bassist **Eyadou Ag Leche**. "We would like to live in peace in the north of Mali but this is very difficult. There is no administration, no banks, no food, no gas."

Their sound is a mix of traditional north African rhythms and western-influenced, intricate acoustic and electric guitar playing. They won a Grammy award for their 2011 album *Tassil*, and their newest disc, *Emmaar*, attracted some top musicians such as guitarist Josh Klinghoffer from the Red Hot Chili Peppers and fiddler Fats Kaplin.

The band started in Libya after founder **Ibrahim Ag Alhabib**, entranced by a western movie, built a guitar out of a bicycle cable, a stick and a tin can. Eventually they started playing around the Sahara, performing their soulful music in tents through battery-powered amps. They attracted the attention of the western world in the late '90s, and have performed around the world, still longing for their home in the Sahara. MS

tinariwen.com



TONY MCMANUS AND BEPPE GAMBETTA Ontario/Italy

If you're looking for your guitar fix this weekend, look no further than the pairing of these six-string greats, **Beppe Gambetta** and **Tony McManus**.

Most Folkfesters know Tony, the Irish-descended Scotsman, now a resident of Elora, Ontario, who has been a regular fixture in Gallagher Park. He is a highly respected guitar virtuoso and songwriter known for such critically-acclaimed albums as *Pourquoi Québec* and *Ceol More*, as well as appearances on over 60 albums as a sideman. McManus performs in many aspects, as a solo artist, as a sideman and as a member of Men of Steel, a quartet of guitarists that also features Dan Crary, Don Ross and Beppe Gambetta. While John Renbourne called him the greatest Celtic guitarist in the world, he has also delved into classical music, a unique enterprise on steel strings.

Born in Genoa, Beppe is a flat-picking guitarist with such a wide range of influences — Italian, Ukrainian, Appalachian, Sardinian, Celtic — that many call him the United Nations of guitarists. Also a composer and a teacher, he has travelled the world, even carving a hole into the now fallen Iron Curtain to bring his music to Eastern Europe when few were allowed in and out of that part of the world. "(Beppe) spins a thick weave that sometimes calls to mind what a duet by Doc Watson and Leo Kottke might sound like," wrote the Washington Post.

These two incredible musicians are a wonder to behold on their own, but having them play together on the same stage will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of the weekend. WA

tonymcmanus.com beppegambetta.com



THE WIND AND THE WAVE United States

Branded as Texas country with a riveting dash of rock and indie folk, **The Wind and the Wave** have managed to rise above the crowded Austin music scene. **Dwight Baker** (the wind) and **Patty Lynn** (the wave), have performed together for only two short years, but have managed to make a name for themselves way beyond Texas.

The pair first met in 2009 when Dwight attended one of Patty's band concerts and was fascinated by her performance and voice. At the time, Dwight was a touring musician turned songwriter and producer who has worked with such artists as Bob Schneider, Brandi Carlile and Kelly Clarkson, and Patty was the lead singer of the rock group Soldier Thread. The two decided to join forces after realizing they were "cut from the same thread and rarely on a different page, where music was concerned."

Signed by RCA Records in 2013, they released their debut From the Wreckage the following year. The eclectic album encompasses everything from indie-folk to alt-country, from blues rock to Southern psychedelia, offering a little bit of something for everyone. Strong songwriting flows through the album like the Rio Grande during a wet spring. With titles like "Raising Hands Raising Hell Raise 'Em High" and "My Mama Said to be Careful Where You Lay Your Head," they can pen country songs with the best of 'em.

The duo has also been touring extensively around the American midwest and the east coast, as well as playing iconic festivals such as South by Southwest, where they were named by the *New York Times* as one of the 12 local acts to watch. RK

thewindandthewave.com



PHOTO BY - STEPHANIE HAMPLE

Roots Radio

CBCMUSIC.ca

CBCMusic.ca is Canada's free digital music service connecting Canadians with the very best in Canadian and international music. Connect to CBCMusic.ca for access to 50 Web radio stations, plus content from the most knowledgeable music personalities and programmers from across the country.

CBC RADIO TWO

CANADA LIVE

Performances of top Canadian roots, rock, indie, jazz and world musicians, recorded live exclusively for Radio 2 and CBCMusic.ca. Monday at 7 PM

DEEP ROOTS

Hosted by Tom Power, Deep Roots plays the best music being made in this explosive genre, featuring great roots musicians from Canada and around the world. Listen in as traditional styles of music are woven together to create something new and exciting. Thursday at 7 PM

INSIDE THE MUSIC

Inside the Music explores the whys and wherefores behind the lives of some of our finest musicians; through its regular feature "My Playlist," where well known Canadian artists, from a variety of musical genres, share their favourite tracks as well as documentary profiles of musical icons. Sunday at 3 PM

q: THE MUSIC

A weekly musical round-up featuring performances and conversations with some of the music world's hottest up-and-comers and most seasoned veterans. q: The Music highlights live, in-studio performances as well as album cuts from artists who have appeared on Radio One's q. Hosted by Shad. Tuesday at 7 PM

RADIO 2 MORNING

Every morning, Tom Power brings listeners a mix of new music and old favourites that will make the drive to work something to look forward to. You'll hear some stories you can share for the rest of the day and learn the secrets behind some of the greatest songs ever written. You'll also hear some of the best up-and-coming artists of today. Monday to Friday at 6 AM

RADIO 2 DRIVE

Hosted by Rich Terfry, DRIVE is the song you haven't heard in eons, the band you wish got more radio play, the music you feel passionate about. Roots, rock, acoustic, Brit-pop, modern favorites and, most importantly, Canadian music. It's the fascinating stories behind the music you love. It's a love letter to Canadian towns and cities across the country. Monday to Friday at 3:30 PM

RANDY BACHMAN'S VINYL TAP

Two hours of music and stories from one of Canada's musical legends. On his eponymous CBC Radio show, he spins his favourite tunes and shares stories from his life on the road and in the studio with bands such as the Guess Who and Bachman Turner Overdrive. Sunday at 6 PM

SATURDAY NIGHT BLUES

A broad spectrum of blues-based music — everything from Mississippi Delta blues to roots rock, zydeco and swing. Hosted by Holger Petersen. Saturday at 6 PM

CBC RADIO ONE

VINYL CAFE

3

Join award-winning host Stuart McLean each week for an hour of stories and music. Check in to hear the misadventures of Dave, the owner of the "Vinyl Cafe," the world's smallest record store, where the motto is "We may not be big, but we're small." And hear music recorded live by some of Canada's top performers.

Sunday at 12 PM

q

q is an energetic daily arts, culture and entertainment program featuring in-depth conversations with the most compelling people observing and influencing culture today. Hosted by Shad, q also features live musical performances, provocative debates on hot-button issues and lively panel discussions. Monday to Friday at 10 AM

DNTC

DNTO is where Canadians get personal about the moments that compel us to see the world in a new way. Host Sook-Yin Lee shares stories that are honest, funny, provocative—and altogether human.

Saturday at 1:30 PM

CJSR FM 88.5

TWANG 'N THANGS

The greatest country show on the dial! All the best in twang and the best in thangs, brought to you by hosts Amy and Thea. Monday 1-3 PM

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Join Rhea March and a bevy of local singer-songwriters for music and interviews. Tuesday 1-2 PM

NORTHERN AIR

A weekly look at new Canadian folk music with Kristi Beckman. Tuesday 8-9 PM

WOZA AFRICA!

One hour of music from all over the African continent and diaspora with hosts Enoch and James.

Wednesday 6-7 PM

CALLING ALL BLUES

Two hours of blues music both old and new with Grant Stovel and Graham Guest. Good blues to ya! Wednesday 7-9 PM

THE SOUNDS OF FOLKWAYS

Exploring the profound depths of the Folkways record label with your host Tyler. Wednesday 9-10 PM

PRAIRIE PICKIN'

A weekly look at bluegrass with Jim and Darcy. Y'all come, ye hear? Thursday 7-8 PM

THE 5 RIVER BEAT

Raw Punjabi folk, Bhangra and Bollywood Funk Straight from the Motherland with Ramneek. Thursday 8-9 PM

DFPROGRAM

CJSR's longest running program brings you an eclectic mix, with hints of rock, jazz, folk and world musics, brought to you as always by Norm Frizzell. Alternating Thursdays 10 PM-midnight.

CHAIWALLA'S BOOMBOX

Chaiwalla's magical boombox plays the most cutting edge, un-classifiably coolest jams. Ancient folk songs clash with delicious bass tones, inspired by the old East and moulded by the new West with your hosts Sohayl and Taimoore. Alternating Thursdays 10 PM-midnight.

ACIMOWIN

JoJo on the Radio is indigenizing the airwaves, sharing aboriginal culture, in-depth interviews, and eclectic aboriginal music from across Turtle Island.

Friday 9-11 AM

HAMSTER TALES

Tammy takes you on a trip through all things soulful and full of groove, be it folk, funk, world and more.
Friday 2-4 PM

SOUNDS UKRAINIAN

A taste of all things Ukrainian, from classical to modern music with your host Lada. Friday 7-9 PM

SEÑOR BLUES

Another look at the blues old, new and live with Qasim Hirani. Alternating Saturdays 7-9 AM

SUNDAY BRUNCH IN NEPAL

Beautiful music for your Sunday morning, with alternating hosts. Sunday 11 AM-noon.

CKUA RADIO

THE AFTERNOON EDITION WITH LIONEL RAULT

Up-tempo, well-informed and musically diverse, The Afternoon Edition helps Albertans negotiate the afternoon rush-hour. It's the perfect complement to any drive home. Monday to Friday 3-6 PM

ALBERTA MORNING WITH GRANT STOVEL

Morning is a unique time of day. Whatever your disposition, Alberta Morning may just be the perfect elixir to get your weekday off to a great start!

Monday to Friday 6-9 AM

THE CELTIC SHOW WITH ANDY DONNELLY

Enjoy wee Celtic cuddles and the marvelous diversity of music styles in the Celtic tradition. Friday 6-8 PM

DEAD ENDS and DETOURS WITH PETER NORTH

A weekly journey into the expansive Grateful Dead catalogue that touches on many of the Dead's influences, musical friends and side projects. Saturday 8-10 AM

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN WITH STEVE FISHER

An exploration of the past 70 years of bluegrass, from hardcore traditional to rock-influenced newgrass. Thursday 6-7 PM

FOLK ROUTES WITH TOM COXWORTH

Tom explores the many tributaries of folk music through the various connections and pathways travelled in this wide musical genre. Sunday 10 AM-noon

THE FRIDAY NIGHT BLUES PARTY WITH CAM HAYDEN

Cam offers the latest blues recordings, alongside gems from the CKUA vault and blues news.
Friday 9 PM-midnight.

HOW I HEAR IT WITH MONICA MILLER

Monica invites you to a musical tour of her favourites—from brand new arrivals to the distant past—from close to home and far-flung corners.

Monday to Friday noon-3 PM

MID-MORNING MOJO WITH BABA

Baba uses his wonderful sense of groove to good advantage weekday mornings, mixing a tasteful blend of folk, jazz, pop and world beat.
Monday to Friday 9 AM-noon.

MULLIGAN STEW WITH TERRY DAVID MULLIGAN

Veteran broadcaster and contemporary popular music aficionado, TDM offers the best in pop, rock, R & B and soul music. Saturday 5-7 PM

NATCH'L BLUES WITH HOLGER PETERSON

Canada's longest-running blues and roots program: need we say more? Saturday 3-5 PM

ROY'S RECORD ROOM WITH ROY FORBES

Roy Forbes, the artist formerly known as Bim, explores the roots of rockabilly, country, and pop from the Shellac Shack. Monday 6-7 PM

TRANSCANADA MUSIC WEST WITH GRANT STOVEL

Showcasing live performances from the best emerging and established talent, from folk, to indie-rock, alt-country and beyond. Subscribe to the free podcast on iTunes through www.ckua.com.

WIDE CUT COUNTRY WITH ALLISON BROCK

As the program name implies, Allison cuts a wide swath through the genre of country, from traditional, alt country and bluegrass to roots music. Saturday 10 AM-noon.

WORLD SPINNING WITH LARK CLARK

Music of the world spins hot for those who feel, as Lark does, that music is a celebration of life and holds a special place in the heart. Sunday 4-6 PM



Radio Active

Weekdays at 3pm

WORLD CLASS MUSIC GREAT CONVERSATIONS

Radio Active Live from Stage 7 On the hill or at home August 6 & 7, 3:00 to 6:00 pm

3

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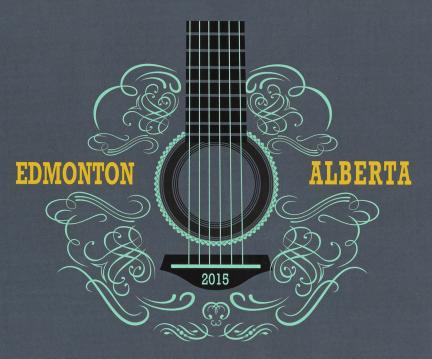


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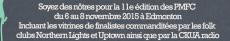
November 8, 2015 • le 8 novembre 2015

CITADEL THEATRE

Gala Performers • Artistes en prestation

Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra Jeffery Straker • Mélisande [Électrotrad] • Trent Severn Pharis & Jason Romero • John Wort Hannam

11th annual Canadian Folk Music Awards Edmonton, November 6-8 2015 Including nominee showcases sponsored by the Northern Lights and Uptown folk clubs, and CKUA radio



folkawards.ca

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Family Fun!

Folk Fest is Edmonton's best summer weekend for people of all ages, especially the kids! We have a variety of activities run by volunteers that are having just as much fun as your kids are. Come on over — play, jump, craft, run, sing, and be kids with us!

WHEN ARE WE OPEN?

Games: Saturday & Sunday........ 10 AM-6 PM
Crafts: Saturday & Sunday........ 10 AM-6 PM
Stories: Saturday & Sunday........ 10 AM-5 PM

WHERE ARE WE?

Right across the field from Stage 7. (See map on pages 2-3)

GAMES!

- Activities in the park
- Parachutes games, tug-of-war and interactive games
- · Spray park fun
- Inflatable jumpy castles

CRAFTS!

- Tarp Flags (Saturday)
- · Musical Instruments (Sunday)
- Beading, drawing, origami, hair wraps, free form art (Both days)



IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL FAMILIES:

The Family Fun Area is a place on site that is to be enjoyed by the whole family. The activities within this area are for the entire family to participate in.

While we do adhere to safety protocols and procedures in all our activities, we do not assume responsibility for your child. Please do not leave your children unattended in our area and use your discretion in the activities they participate in. While we are more than happy to play alongside you, YOU still need to be there!

Please be sure to keep your family ready for the day with water, snacks, hats, sunscreen and bug repellent.

And... since we are in the Family Fun Area, let's have fun!!

Crafts

ARUNA

With over 30 years experience in Mendhi body art designs, Aruna excels in traditional and the latest elegant and intricate designs to suit the festival mood.

BURLAP SAC DESIGNS

Delight at the works of locally based designer Kayley Therrien as she combines unexpected treasures with metal and stone to create truly unusual adornments for men and women.

www.burlapsac.com

CARICATURES BY SUZANNE

Take home a unique souvenir of your festival weekend. These quirky, fun drawings are a unique record of your Folkfest experience.

www.members.shaw.ca/artforms

CHIKA ANDO ILLUSTRATION

Whimsical prints that hit home with their unique take on our innermost musings.

DAHLIA DRIVE

Dahlia Drive gathers discarded women's slips and men's shirts and reworks them with colour, images and textures to create one of a kind fashion for the unique individual. www.dahliadrive.com

FLIGHT PATH DESIGNS

Our leather accessories are made with a commitment to creating an alternative to mass produced products, and to supporting local economies. All our pieces are created with attention to detail, design and functionality.

www.flightpathdesigns.etsy.com



PHOTO BY TOM TURNER

HENNA ART (AREA 4 MARKETPLACE)

Nitasha Merchant brings her beautiful henna artwork to our new Area 4 marketplace. Stop by when you're in the west end to get decorated for the weekend.

JANET STEIN JEWELLERY

Stunning silver jewellery for every taste. Clean and delicate, Janet's designs are made to be worn with years of enjoyment.
www.janetstein.com



NFW THIS YFAR

We are creating a mini market experience at Area 4, the former site of Stage 4.

Lounge in the shade tent.

Sit and enjoy a rest engaging in one of our craft artisan expeiences. Carve your own soapstone carving with Rubble Road or have Nitasha decorate your body with a Mendhi design at Henna Art.

Grab some eats from the marketplace vendors: Organic Box serves up healthy snacks, Serben Organic Farms has your hot dog needs covered and Calico Baking Co. will serve up sweet and savoury snacks.

The Area 4 Marketplace is like your neighborhood farmer's market without having to leave the site.

JASON BLOWER ILLUSTRATION

When describing Jason's style of illustration one would likely arrive at whimsical. Artwork that portrays Edmonton landmarks and much more. Jason approaches his work from a "sunshine and lollipops" point of view, where everything is fun and happy.

www.jasonblower.com

JAX BESPOKE

Local artist making bracelets out of bike spokes. Also loves to pick up a torch and create other handmade jewelry using brass, copper, and silver.

JOEL KOOP PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos that capture the peace that comes in solitude and darkness as well as the power and beauty in nature. All photos are available in large prints or as cards as well as on unique jewellery pieces. www.joelkoop.com

LODEN

Each unique piece is 100% Canadian made clothing that is fun, functional and beautiful. Original hand-printed artwork is printed on sustainable fiber garments.

www.lodenclothing.com

LOVE MAKING DESIGNS

Fun and quirky designs silk screened on an array of Tshirts, bags and more.

MAJESTY

Julie Morrison has been making vegan bags and wallets since 2004. Every season she silkscreens new patterns and tries new things. Sustainable cork is a big feature for 2015 with travel wallets, luggage tags and bags.

Majestyindustries.com

MARC SIMARD

Marc Simard hand-makes everything using only his own, original artwork working with recycled, off-cut and scrap leather, fabric and wood. Quality and functionality are the most important elements in the creation of these unusual pieces. www.marcsimardartisan.com

NORTH BIRCH GROVE

North Birch Cove is an original photography + home décor company by AV Wakefield. AV lives in Canmore.

www.northbirchcove.com

OLD TIN ROOF/ WINTERCHILD JEWELLERY

Yukon jewellery designer, Esther Winter, has been creating hand-crafted jewellery since 1995.
Marrying recycling with history, Old Tin Roof features works made from salvaged roof tin of old Yukon log cabins, while WinterChild showcases classic Canadian symbolism in sterling silver.

OLDHAT

Handmade for fine folks fashionable and functional hats designed and sewn by Nathan in Winnipeg. Using only recycled fabrics, Oldhat is committed to quality and sustainability. www.oldhat.ca

PIXIE GLASSWORKS

We have a passion for flame. Working with glass and combining with a successful aromatherapy line brings us innovative and beautiful glass products to wear and decorate your home.

QUEEN BEE DESIGNS

Queen Bee is back! Sparkling bijouterie! Thoughtful, handcrafted personal adornments in gold, silver, brass and precious stones.

RAVE'N'IRON

Transforming scrap steel into magical mini-masterpieces by combining traditional metal working techniques with a contemporary eye, while looking to mankind's oldest inspirations of nature and love. www.theraveniron.com

RAVEN MOUNTAIN

Specializes in leather moccasins, tooled belts, corsets, handbags and accessories. Made using traditional techniques with a modern twist. www.ravenmountain.ca

RIMANCHIK

Accessories with a focus on modern design, Rimanchik uses cuts and distinctive leathers, textiles and hardware combinations to achieve practical and innovative items for all. www.rimanchik.com

ROGUE GOAT

Creating unique artwork and accessories that celebrate trees and the Canadian landscape. Combining meticulous free-hand scroll saw work with original acrylic paintings or fine materials, Rogue Goat marries craftsmanship with vision. www.rogue-goat.com

RUBBLE ROAD (AREA 4 MARKETPLACE)

These soapstone carving kits are a big hit with for people of all ages looking to exercise their artistic side. Come to the Area 4 Marketplace to try it for yourself!

SABRINA BUTTERFLY DESIGNS

Naturally comfortable women's clothing, unique detailing with quality and fit makes a signature Sabrina Butterfly piece. www.sabrinabutterflydesigns.ca

SASHIKO STUDIO

Using traditional Japanese patterns, Lynne hand-stitches ancient designs on modern fabrics to create unique personal crafts. Exceptionally intricate and lovely.

www.sashikostudio.com

SHI STUDIO

Affinity for the design influences of Asia infuses Cory's work, while her roots in the West Coast lend a fresh authenticity to her work. Gorgeous pieces of fabric, metal and leather. www.shistudio.com



PHOTO BY FRANK GASPARIK

SIMPLY BAMBOO

Scott is back with his collection of handcrafted bamboo woodwind instruments including: flutes, panpipes, shakuhachis. Irish whistles, didgeridoos and more.

SPOONMAN

Rings that shine and things that jingle. Handcrafted jewellery and accessories made from silver forks and spoons by the festival's original "spoonman" Ray MacNeil. www.thespoonman.com

TWISTED WOOD GUITARS

Specializing in handcrafted Weissenborn style acoustic lap slide guitars and accessories. These instruments are truly works of art.

URBAN FOREST DESIGN STUDIO

Beautiful, earthy pottery design that integrates traditional techniques with local materials and modern ideas. Using waste wood as fuel for their kiln lends itself to their endeavor to create beautiful things while leaving as small an environmental footprint as possible. www.urbanforestdesign.com

VELVET PLUME

Sculpted, textured, art-infused applique and asymmetry are just a few elements of Velvet Plume designs. Feel like a divine Goddess, a woodland faerie, or a dancing pixie in these one-of-a-kind wearable art creations.

VOILÀ PAR ANDRÉANNE

Metis fashion designer Andréanne crafts beautiful, comfortable and sustainable women's clothing. Featuring stunning original aboriginal design, and hand made details, Voilà Par Andréanne brings you inspired pieces.

WHITEOUT WORKSHOP

Original artwork all created from or inspired by photographs taken over years of travelling, silk screened on apparel and décor.
www.whiteoutworkshop.com

WHOLLY MAMA

Made form the heart, Wholly Mama offers homemade, organic aromatic products to soothe the body, soul and senses. From our home to yours.

WINDY TREE ARTISAN

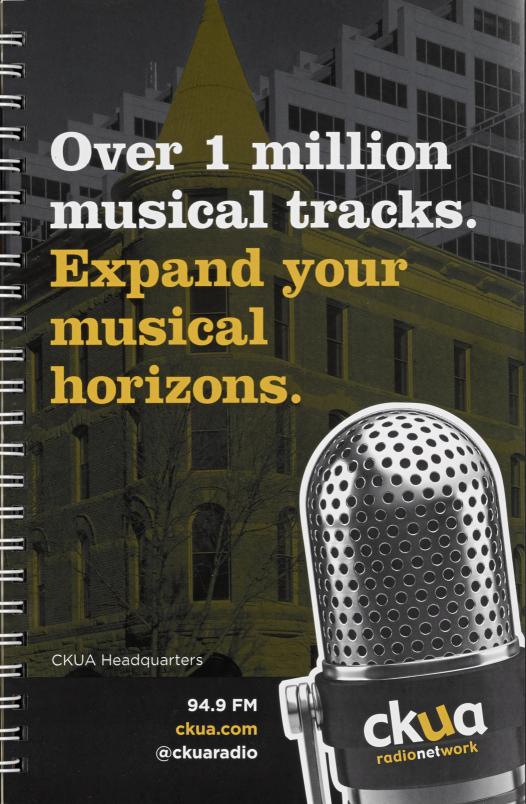
This unique jewellery is handcrafted from arbutus branches that have fallen naturally. The design is then carved individually and free-hand with a scroll saw, making each an original piece of art.

www.windytreeartisan.ca

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Zany... amazing...magical.
Powered by the whimsy, love
laughter and the sparkle of life.
Inspiring creative play with toys,
juggling balls, jester hats, wings and
more. Wander by the wonderful
world of Zam and play with us.





Behind it All



BACK ROW From left to right: Cam McCormick, Craig Moser, Brad Odsen, Peter Guest, Kathy Hogan, Melanie Cheek FRONT ROW: Chris Martin, Chelsea Donelon, Gerrit Bjalek



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F

BACK ROW left to right: Claire Stewart, Joel Moore, Katie Sowden, Kathy Morin, Tom Picard, Matteo Zenari, Stephane Levesque, Glenda Dennis, Terry Wickham, Lorie Miseck, Mike Ford, Lori Scheurwater

DOWN IN FRONT left to right: Jessica Kresta, Marianne Stover, Tanya Corbin, Morris Bujarski, Astrid Bruce, Dennis Franz, Virginia Dowdell, Sarah Carlson, Vicki Fannon, Helen Stuart **MISSING:** Shauna Stewart, Richard Stuart, Margaret Crowe



PHOTO BY - TOM TURNER

Our volunteers have great chops

While 2,400 volunteers make up the engine that drives Folkfest, the steering is done by the coordinators. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the coordinators of our many volunteer crews who take the initiative to do the scheduling and training of their volunteers and the organization of their respective crews. Their commitment goes well beyond the four days of the festival, with the work often starting while the snow is still on the ground.

We have over 200 volunteers in leadership positions, including five of the nine current board members as well as nine past board members. Most of these volunteers have been with us for over 10 years.

Coordinators and their assistants at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival have a considerable amount of autonomy when it comes to how they perform their duties as they are in the best position to know what works for them. They work closely with the staff to make sure they are able to present the best possible experience for our patrons.

Without the hard work of these individuals we would not be able to present the world class event we have come to expect.

Thank you to the coordination teams of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

Vicki Fannon

Manager of Volunteers



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www.pwc.com/ca/dbia

Hitting the right notes

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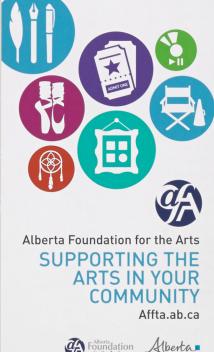
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As **Bob Dylan** once said...

"May you stay forever young..."

Congratulations to Terry Wickham, The Board of Directors, Staff & Volunteers

Thanks for keeping us young all these years!







www.waterloolincoln.com / www.waterlooford.com

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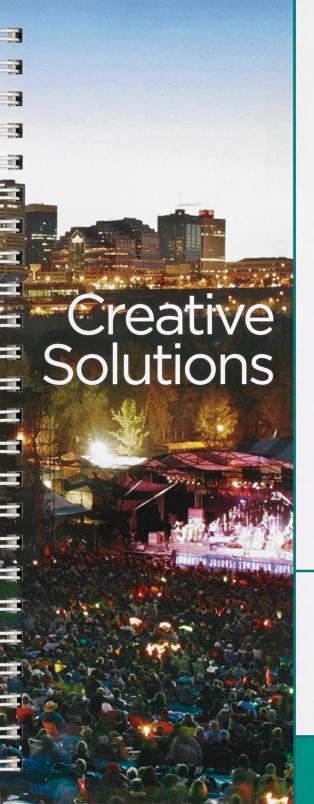
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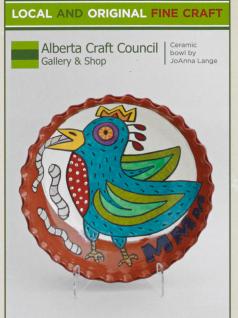
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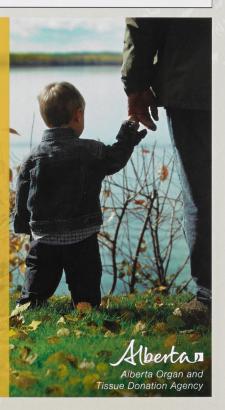
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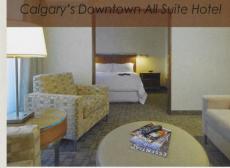
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STAGE

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Scot Morgan Jordon Slator Aimee Zacharuk Jason Grilo

Stage 3

Kevin Borch Gregory Pohl Morgan Roffey Ian Hicks Jacob Semeniuk

Stage 5

Mike Tulley Bill Carley Ian Murdock Miles Wilkinson Monique Roy

Stage 6

Mary Thurber Steven Slemon Gordon Gow Cody Hughes Khalid Taha Thomas Lewis

Stage 7

3

Andrew Anderson Thomas Barker George Kelly David Almond Kessler Douglas

Party

Trevor Brown Brian Chu Alice Oscar Terry Triska

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They will be remembered.

Ten of our valued volunteers from the Folkfest family passed away over the last year. To their families we express condolences, our appreciation for all the hard work they did to make the festival better, and to say how much they will be missed by their crews and everyone who knew them.

Pilar Aracil-Morin

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Ken Walker

Festival Kitchen Main Course

Go Wildly Forward Scholarship

The Don Snider "Go Wildly Forward" scholarship is an Edmonton Folk Music Festival program that recognizes and honours Folkfest volunteers who demonstrate, through their actions and attitudes, a positive motivation to be engaged meaningfully in the community and the world at large.

Those selected will have a spirit of adventure, a desire to communicate and a willingness to share their knowledge and experience with others. Don Snider embodied these qualities over 40 years of working in the arts, as production manager of Folkfest and through his travels. Over the years, the number, term or value of the awards may vary dependent on the applications received.



This year the committee has awarded a scholarship to Meika Ellis.

Meika grew up in the country outside of Edmonton. Her winters were filled with tobogganing,

skating and skiing in her backyard, with canoeing, biking and frisbee-golf in the summer. Like Don Snider, Meika is a graduate of Victoria School, and is now a third-year law student at the University of Ottawa. She plans to pursue a career in either health law or intellectual property (IP) law as evidenced by her current employment at the University of Alberta's Health Law Institute and as a research assistant with one of Canada's leading IP experts at the University of Ottawa.

Throughout her life, she has always found time to volunteer with various local and national organizations. Some of her involvement includes coaching seven-to-10 year olds with the Juventus Cycling Club, helping to lead Canadian Blood Service's Youth Committee which aimed to recruit and maintain blood donors in Edmonton, helping to lead and build the University of Alberta's Health and Wellness Movement on campus and, of



PHOTO BY JACQUELINE SNIDER

course, helping staff the gate at the Edmonton Folk Music Festival.

In her spare time, Meika enjoys velodrome racing with the Juventus Cycling Club. She primarily competes on the velodrome but enjoys the occasional road race. In her year off before law school, Meika bought a one way ticket and adventured on down to Australia where she spent a few months travelling along the eastern coast, training and racing in Rockhampton, Queensland.

Applicants must:

- Volunteer for Edmonton Folk Music Festival
- Be in good standing with the Festival for at least two years
- Intend to pursue a program of study leading to a recognized licence, certificate, diploma, undergraduate or professional degree

Strong applications will emphasize the applicant's

- Maturity and a commitment to their studies
- Motivation to engage in the community and the world at large
- Studies as part of a strong plan to move wildly forward
- Willingness to share their knowledge and experience with others
- Financial need and what difference the award will make in moving wildly forward
- Spirit of adventure

Past recipients are encouraged to reapply.
This award cannot fund programs retroactively. If
you have already completed a program, you are not
eligible.

In Memory of Ron Casat



Over the course of his 40-plus-year career Ron performed with some of Alberta's best known players including Amos Garrett & the 'Eh Team, Ian Tyson, Oscar Lopez, Dave Wilkie, James Keelaghan, Diamond Joe White, Billy Cowsill, Donald Ray Johnson and Tom Phillips.

From 1990 to 2014, Ron was the keyboard player in the Festival House Band. He backed up dozens of artists including Solomon Burke, Maria Muldaur, Wanda Jackson, Gatemouth Brown, Taj Mahal, Billy Boy Arnold, Big Miller, Lowell Fulson, and Eric Bibb.

In addition to his skills as a keyboard and accordian player, Ron was also an exceptional songwriter, vocalist, arranger and producer.

Always humble, Ron was known for his sense of humour, his generous heart and his encouragement of new artists.

Ron passed away on April 22nd at the age of 62.

The Edmonton Folk Music Festival, the House Band in particular, would like to thank and acknowledge our friend.

"Ron Casat was one of a kind. One of the sweetest guys I knew. Such a huge loss to the music business and a bigger loss to mankind. The House Band will never be the same."

—Rusty Reed

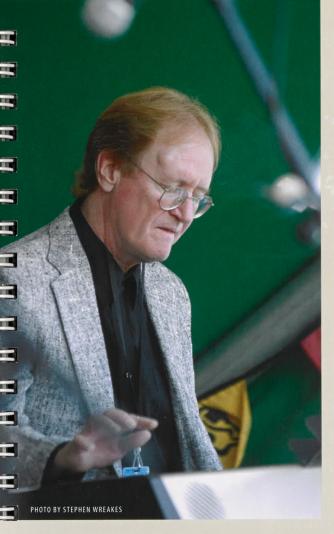
"It was obvious that he was a great musician but it was the depth and range of his playing that first impressed me. We continued our musical friendship in the decades that followed, playing with Amos Garrett & The Eh Team and the Festival House Band.

No matter the situation, Ron was always there to support the music and he always did it with a smile on his face. I'm really going to miss Ron and the wonderful music he made."

—Dave Babcock

"I met Ron when he joined the House Band in 1990 and he soon became a good friend, so much so that I'd credit Ron with being the person who most influenced my decision to move to Alberta in 1999. He is sorely missed by all of us in Calgary's music community."

---Kit Johnson



"You take one part Ray Charles, one part Dr. John, a dash of Allan Toussaint, throw in some Pinetop Perkins, season with some Duke Ellington and you have that incredible musical gumbo that was Ron Casat. He often wore a straw hat and Hawaiian shirt because where ever he went the sun was always shining. I'm gonna miss that smile on stage. "

---Michelle Josef

"During Ron's many years as the original keyboard man in my blues band, the Eh Team, we played from Japan to East Germany and countless places in between. He was a great travelling companion and impressed people everywhere we went. I'll miss our talks and his songs."

--- Amos Garrett

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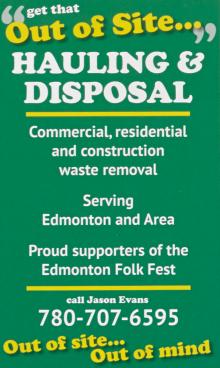
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PHOTO BY - ROCCO MACRI

View from the Hill

As you sit on the hill and take it all in, pause for a moment and think of all the work it takes to bring our community together for these four special days. Look around and see ETS buses on your right, shuttle vans arriving to the left of Main Stage, the buzz of activity in the beer tent and concessions and perhaps the technical set up activity on the stage.

Scan the horizon and you will see the Legislature. Then look at all the green and white tents and know that the Alberta government paid for half of their cost and the money saved on rentals is poured into the festival. You may recognize these tents from several other festivals around the city. Edmonton truly is "Festival City."

I have often wondered why 2,500 volunteers and hundreds of other supporters put in so much free labour to make this festival happen, and happen so wonderfully.

I have come to the conclusion that it is about community and our human desire to come together just as rural communities would do in a barn raising or in shared harvesting. And it is about being part of something that is bigger and better than yourself. With the not-so-secret

ingredient of our volunteers, life, for four days, becomes what we would want it to be all the time.

As our patrons, you play a huge part. In my Celtic, superstitious way, I am almost afraid to speak of your impressive cooperative nature to each other and to our volunteers. As there is a renewal each year in those who attend, it is important to pass on how to be a good neighbour. If I have one wish, it would be that I receive no complaints about a group of loud talkers during performances.

I have had more than a worrying share of Forrest Gump moments in my life. The moment that springs to mind is from a CKUA interview:

Q: "How do you get a really good lineup?"

A: "You make sure every artist is really good"

More than anything else, this is what our festival stands for. We believe in every artist performing here this weekend, and we know you love to explore. That is the perfect match.



PHOTO BY - KUCCO MACKI

I was once asked when do I start to plan the sessions. April or May? I replied: September, as soon as I start booking. It is all about the ingredients as in a superb buffet. When you end up with the level of talent on display this weekend, well, planning the sessions becomes a lot easier and more interesting.

Over the years the number of Main Stage concerts has dropped dramatically due to the increase in hours given to Session Stages and allowing artists longer sets. It is heartening that established artists understand it is important to give younger artists a chance on the big stage.

I am so fortunate to work with such experienced, talented and committed volunteers and the same adjectives apply to our long serving staff. Those who have studied management will understand why "Delegation" is my middle name. Speaking of delegations, I would like to welcome a delegation from Nashville, which you may know, is our Sister City. That is another perfect match. I hope Music City won't mind if we claim these four days of music as they still have the other 361.

Edmonton will also welcome the Canadian Folk Music Awards from November 6-8. Our website will have full details and if you are on our email list, you will be kept informed. This weekend is also a time to reflect on those who are no longer with us. Brian Hull was the Cloverdale liaison to the festival in my early years. He was fair and decent and one of his legacies is the cordial relationship that we enjoy with the community that surrounds us. Ron Casat, our Festival House Band keyboardist since 1990, was a hugely talented musician and a well loved friend to many. Please check out Page 124 for tributes from those who knew him better than I.

I will leave a fantasy last thought from my favourite philosopher, Chauncey Gardiner. "The Edmonton Folk Festival: it is about being there".

Slainte (to your health), Terry Wickham

Producer



EHIND IT ALL

Four Strong Winds

Four strong winds that blow lonely,

Seven seas that run high,

All those things that don't change, come what may ...

Our good times are all gone,

I'm bound for moving on.

I'll look for you if I'm ever back this way.

Think I'll go out to Alberta,
Weather's good there in the fall.
Got some friends that I can go to working for,
Still I wish you'd change your mind
If I ask you one more time,
But we've been through this a hundred times or more.

If I get there before the snow flies,
If things are looking good,
You could meet me if I send you down the fare—
But by then it will be winter,
Not too much for you to do
And these winds sure do blow cold way out there.





SHARON SHANNON | PHOTO BY ERIC KOZAKIEWICZ











EMILY FRANTZ [MANDOLIN ORANGE] | PHOTO BY STEPHEN WREAKES









DELLA MAE | PHOTO BY FRANK GASPARIK









CARLOS REYES | PHOTO BY DANIEL GREENWAYS





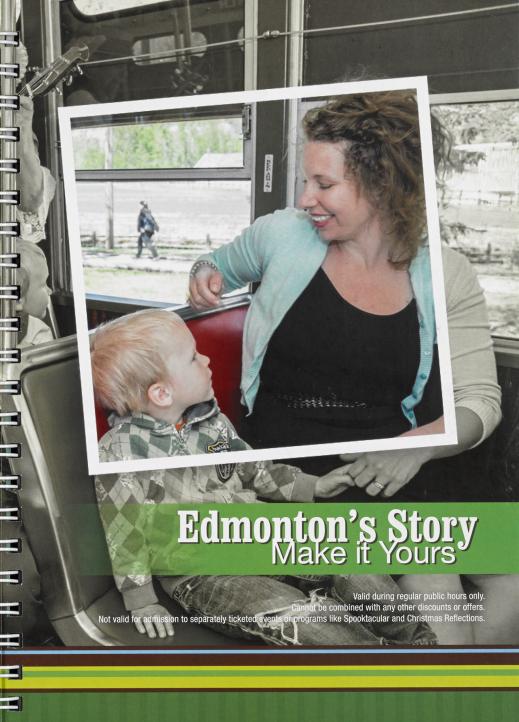




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LEDWARD KAAPANA, RICHARD HO'OPI'I, AND GEORGE KAHUMOKU, JR. | PHOTO BY FRANK GASPARIK



GORD GRDINA [DAN MANGAN] AND BEAR'S DEN | PHOTO BY STEPHEN WREAKES























BEN HOWARD | PHOTO BY TOM TURNER







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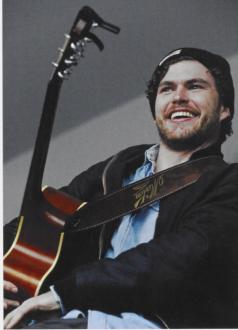












VANCE JOY | PHOTO BY ERIC KOZAKIEWICZ



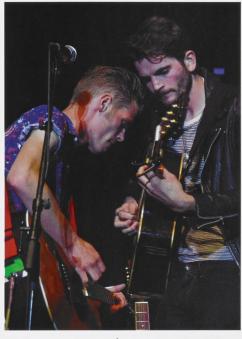
JIM CUDDY AND GREG KEELOR (BLUE RODEO) | PHOTO BY FRANK GASPARIK











HUDSON TAYLOR | PHOTO BY DANIEL GREENWAYS













MICHAEL FRANTI | PHOTO BY ERIC KOZAKIEWICZ









BASIA BULAT | PHOTO BY FRANK GASPARIK





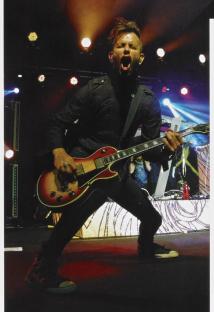




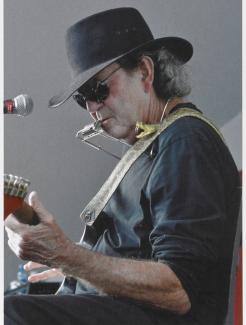








J BOWMAN | PHOTO BY DANIEL GREENWAYS



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LUCIUS | PHOTO BY STEPHANIE HAMPLE









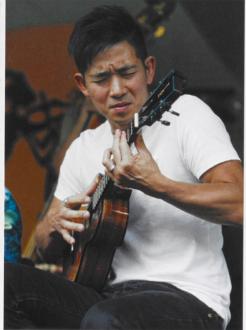












JAKE SHIMABUKURO | PHOTO BY FRANK GASPARIK

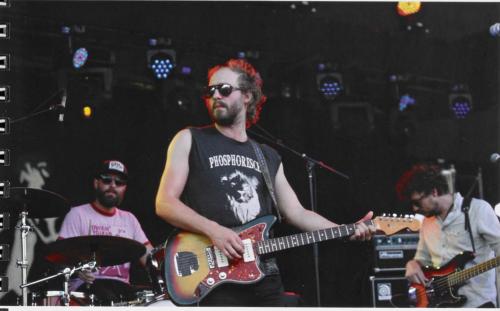


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